

# Bangladesh potter weeps for a son lost in the great flood

From Ahmed Fazi Dhamrai

Mr Sunil Karmakar, who has spent 25 of his 40 years firing clay pots in his Bangladesh village not far from the ancient Buddhist town of Dhamrai, has just returned home from a flood relief camp to find a few bamboo poles jutting out of the silty soil where his mudwalled hut stood.

A couple of bricks in the courtyard reminded him of the kiln that he inherited from his father.

But the tears which fill Mr Karmakar's eyes are not for his paternal kiln nor for his hut, but for the son, aged four, whom he could not save from the rushing water which had submerged his village for the past two weeks.

He explained: "We were all on the roof when water as high as seven feet washed everything away."

Mr Karmakar, his wife and three

daughters, are among the two million people in Bangladesh who have been made homeless by the most devastating floods in 40 years.

About 24 million people have been displaced by the catastrophe, triggered after monsoon rains pounded the sedimentary plains for weeks. Cloudbursts to the north, in the foothills of the Himalayas in Nepal, swelled the rivers far to the south in Bangladesh, which open into the Bay of Bengal.

"I have never seen so much water in my life," said Mr Karmakar, who was rescued by an Army boat after he had survived on the roof, hungry and thirsty, for two days.

The Karmakars consider themselves lucky because their loss is less than their neighbours', whose three children have been missing since the water from the River Padma engulfed the village.

The first signs of the catastrophe were

seen early in August when Rangpur, Dinajpur and Gaibandha districts in northern Bangladesh became a vast sheet of water, turning thousands into refugees overnight. Hundreds of families fled their homes and took shelter on the dry lands of railway embankments.

The Government and local Red Cross opened relief camps, but the majority remained stranded in inundated villages for weeks because they could not be transported for lack of boats.

The Army was called out when the civilian administration found itself overwhelmed by the huge numbers of refugees.

The official death toll rose to 690 yesterday as 15 more people died in a diarrhoeal epidemic. Government doctors are fighting a losing battle against the disease, which is being spread by contaminated water.

Although the casualty figure is rel-

atively low, the devastation has been extensive. Official estimates say about that two million tonnes of food grain have been lost and more than 25 thousand cattle killed as waves of floodwater engulfed one district after another.

Families such as the Karmakars, who have become destitute, have to be fed for the next two months before another harvest is available. This will require an additional 450 thousand tonnes of rice or wheat immediately from abroad if the spectre of a famine stalking the countryside is not to become a reality.

In Dhamrai, which was a bustling town of potters, weavers and rice traders, life has stood still since water entered the main bazaar and flooded houses. Families left their property and rushed to the town school, which was still dry, where the Government opened a relief camp.

As the water level continued to rise,

the camp became more crowded and the food scarcer.

Mr Abdul Karim, a local official, said: "There were so many people to feed we could never arrange enough rice."

In the critical days, refugees waited hours for the food packets to be dropped by helicopters when stores were exhausted, and the town was completely cut off from the capital Dhaka, about 45 miles to the west.

The Government has denied emphatically that there have been any deaths from starvation, but the press has reported several fatalities from severe malnutrition. In the worst affected northern districts, hundreds of hungry people staged demonstrations in front of government offices.

President Ershad told envoys of Western and Islamic countries: "We are dealing with an unprecedented disaster."

A senior United Nations official,

visiting the flood-affected countryside yesterday, said that the real extent of the damage would be clear only after the water had left the soggy paddyfields.

● LONDON: It is the clearest indication of the tenuous political situation in Bangladesh that President Ershad has not yet declared a state of emergency, even though his country is now suffering the worst floods in its history (Michael Evans writes).

So far, according to authoritative sources, he has simply not dared to make such a move because of its political implications. The main opposition parties, already clamouring for an end to the regime, would view a decision to declare a state of emergency as a step back towards martial law.

However, President Ershad has already brought in troops to help rebuild bridges and roads in the north, and at present the signs are that the Government in Dhaka is coping reasonably well.

## Benn bids for soul of the Labour Party

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Labour's hard left yesterday emerged from its post-election slumber to announce a big push to capture the soul of its shell-shocked party.

Mr Tony Benn, the veteran socialist campaigner and MP for Chesterfield, told a Westminster press conference that a 500-strong conference in his constituency next month will begin the process of forging a genuine left-wing alternative to Thatcherism.

Mr Arthur Scargill, Mr Ken Livingstone, Mr Bernie Grant and Mr Eric Heffer are among those sponsoring the conference, being organized by the hard-left Campaign Group of Labour MPs, the Socialist Society and the Conference of Socialist Economists.

Although Mr Benn denied they were indulging in "sectarianism", he was insistent on building a new consensus to challenge the undeniable success of the "new right", the move inevitably puts the new grouping on a collision course with Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader.

Mr Kinnock has ordered an urgent policy rethink in the wake of the crushing election defeat and signalled the start of a search for a new brand of socialism aimed at appealing to people as individuals,

rather than as members of groups.

The party conference is likely to rubber stamp his call later this month in Brighton and lead to the setting up of specific working parties.

Mr Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North, sitting alongside Mr Benn, said he hoped the Chesterfield conference would succeed in turning the Labour Party into a force demanding socialism "rather than the reticence that people see at the present time."

With Labour's traditional right pushed to the sidelines as the struggle begins for the future of the party, the stage is set for a bruising clash between Mr Kinnock's ascendant soft left supporters and the hard left, a confrontation that could yet surface at the party conference later this month.

Meanwhile, two of Mr Kinnock's leading supporters, Mr David Blunkett, MP for Sheffield Brightside and a leading member of the national executive committee, and Mr Robin Cook, the chief health spokesman, questioned the hard left's latest attempt to flex its warring muscles.

Mr Blunkett said that too many people who had attached themselves to the left

were either continuing to peddle "narrow issue-based politics" with little relevance to reversing the Thatcherite tide or were advocating the dangerous philosophy of jettisoning inconvenient ideological baggage.

Mr Benn said that while Labour had run a brilliant election campaign it had failed because the leadership lacked grassroots movements and those movements lacked new ideas.

"If you do not have a coherent set of ideas to present to people, you are handicapped in challenging the Government, who do represent a very coherent set of ideas that have established a commanding position in the minds of people."

Over-emphasis on homophobia and lesbians caused "immense damage" to Labour's hopes in the general election, according to Mr Denis Healey, the party's most experienced senior politician (Our Political Staff writes).

"A tiny minority of councils gave the impression the only thing we were interested in was gay rights," he said in an interview in the latest edition of a magazine called *Fairly Serious Monthly*.



Fraun Monika Rust saying a fond farewell to her son, Mathias, after he was sentenced to four years in a Soviet labour camp yesterday for landing a light aircraft in Red Square.

## Hopes rise that Rust may be given early Kremlin pardon

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Intense diplomatic pressure is expected from West Germany to try to secure an early release for Mathias Rust, the 19-year-old pilot from Hamburg sentenced yesterday to four years in a remote labour camp for his daredevil flight to Red Square on May 28.

Soviet dissident sources said that the sentence would be served in the one labour camp reserved exclusively for foreigners. But they predicted that Rust could be the subject of a special Kremlin pardon and allowed home after only a few months. Because the sentence was handed down by the Supreme Court, it is not subject to appeal.

Although the total of the sentences imposed by Judge Robert Tikhomirov was half that demanded by the Soviet Prosecutor, they proved unpopular with some of the 150 Russians gathered outside.

One 80-year-old woman told *The Times*: "Many of us are unhappy. We wanted him to go home straight away with his mother. The Russian people are not angry with the boy; they knew what he had done was wrong but they did not want such a young man to be sent away like that to a camp. Why did they not just give him a fine?"

A few minutes later, while Frau Monika Rust, the prisoner's mother was addressing an impromptu press conference, a Russian youth showered her with dozens of small paper aircraft, then forced his way to the microphone and said in English that people should urge the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev to pardon him.

The tall, bespectacled Rust appeared curiously unmoved by his sentence. Later, as he said an emotional farewell to his family, he said that he regarded it as "correct."

The family also appeared in remarkably good spirits, leading to speculation that the outline of a possible diplomatic deal might already be known to them.

But hopes of an early pardon for the young pilot appeared to suffer an early setback last night when *Tass*, the official Soviet news agency published a harshly worded commentary describing his landing close to the Kremlin as "demonstrating special insolence and blatant disregard for the society, rights and traditions of the Soviet people."

## King hint of IRA link with arrests

By Richard Ford, Craig Seton and Stewart Tendler

Mr Tom King yesterday hinted at a possible Provisional IRA link with the security incident at his Wiltshire home as he returned to Northern Ireland for the first time since the arrest of three Irish suspects.

The minister's implication of the IRA came on a day when Lancashire police, after talking to Wiltshire detectives, began searching in Blackpool

for an IRA safe house which could conceal a possible explosives factory.

Police believe that Mr King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was the main target for an IRA reconnaissance group.

It may also have looked at the possibility of attacking another political figure during the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool.

The three people held by Wiltshire police are not listed among known IRA terrorists.

Yesterday the police were given powers to hold them for another two days under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and discussions are being held with the Director of Public Prosecutions about possible charges.

Continued on page 22, col 7

## Italy prepares to dispatch Gulf task force

From Roger Boyes, Rome

The Italian Government yesterday decided to send a task force to the Gulf in response to the attack on an Italian container ship by Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

The move, subject to parliamentary approval, was proposed by Signor Valerio Zanone, the Defence Minister. It was reported last night that the force would include three mine-sweepers, one or two support vessels - one equipped with a mini-submarine - two frigates and about 500 men.

The Italian Government has been under pressure to react following the attack on Thursday in the northern Gulf on the container vessel *Jolly Rubino*. A speedboat containing four men drew alongside the Italian ship and fired six rocket-propelled grenades into the bridge of the vessel. Two Italians were injured, including the captain, and the ship has had to dock in Dubai.

Although Iran denies responsibility, the attack is assumed by the Italian authorities to be the work of the Revolutionary Guards. The Italian Foreign Minister, Signor Giulio Andreotti, immediately called in the Iranian Ambassador and a protest has been delivered in Tehran.

Signor Andreotti has been arguing for a multi-national mine-sweeping and protection force under United Nations auspices. Supported by his Christian Democratic Party, he has been striving to avoid direct Italian military involvement. But yesterday the Christian Democrats' four coalition partners - the Socialists, the Social Democrats, the Republicans and Liberals - made it clear that Italy should play a more active role in the Gulf, both to protect its own ship-

ping and to preserve the freedom of navigation.

Britain and the United States have also been talking to Italy in similar terms. If the Italian task force goes ahead it will be a significant addition to the British, French and American ships already in the area. Signor Andreotti has become increasingly isolated in his arguments for a multi-lateral task force and had been hoping to hold the line at least until Italy takes over the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council next month. That would have been the acid test of whether the United

Iraq outflanked ..... 7  
Ceasefire call ..... 7

Nations can prove efficient at policing or pacifying the Gulf. However, the direct assault on an Italian ship has created almost insuperable difficulties in maintaining the multi-lateralist argument.

● DUBAI: Iran appears to have fired its first Silkworm missile at an Arab country, sending the Chinese-made rocket across the northern waters of the Gulf to land outside Kuwait City (Our Own Correspondent writes).

Kuwaiti government officials said the missile had exploded at 4am yesterday on the coastline, scarcely two miles from the offshore oil terminal at Al-Ahmedi where two American-flagged tankers were loading for the next US convoy down the Gulf. There were no casualties.

Meanwhile, by dusk yesterday both Iraq and Iran had refrained from attacks on the waters of the Gulf, presumably after appeals from Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General.

## Exam results

Degrees from the University of Glasgow will be published on Monday.

## IN PART ②

## £360m offer

Mr Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, bid £367 million for Equity & Law, the insurance group. The offer was rejected. Page 23

## New interest

More banks and building societies are considering offering current accounts that pay interest. Family Money, pages 28-32

## Reign ends

Daley Thompson could manage only ninth position in the decathlon at the world athletics championships. Page 38

## Portfolio

● There is £16,000 to be won in today's Times Portfolio Gold competition. There was no winner of the daily competition yesterday, so the prize goes to £8,000, and there is the additional weekly prize of £8,000. ● Portfolio list, page 25. Weekly check, page 32

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## Spain's air strike is called off

By Harvey Elliott

The Spanish air traffic controllers' strike was called off again last night, causing airlines and airport managers in Britain to cancel arrangements for hundreds of extra staff to cope with the anticipated delays and big queues.

"We wound ourselves up and now we will have to wind ourselves down again," a spokesman at Gatwick said.

The move is good news for the thousands of British holidaymakers flying out for late summer breaks, and will also be greeted with relief by those people caught out when the 136 air traffic controllers based at Barcelona went on strike two weeks ago and who are scheduled to return from Spain.

But air travellers could still face problems. More than 1,000 British air traffic engineers are now officially in dispute and are refusing to carry out all but the strict terms of their contract of employment, which could also cause disruption in the event of equipment failure.

Controllers in the Canaries were also threatening industrial action last night.

## Ladbroke buys chain of Hiltons

By Cliff Feltham

The luxury Hilton International hotel chain passed into British hands last night when the Ladbroke betting and DIY group fought off fierce international competition to buy the business in a £645 million deal.

The takeover was hailed as a remarkable coup for Mr Cyril Stein, the Ladbroke chairman, who survived a crisis at the company a few years ago when it was forced to close its London casinos after a big scandal.

One of the biggest prizes in the Hilton chain is the prestigious hotel in Park Lane in London where a penthouse suite costs £850 plus VAT for a night.

Mr Stein competed in an auction for the chain of 92 hotels all over the world after its owner, the US Allegis Group, decided it wanted to leave the business. Hilton has large luxury hotels in Rome, Geneva, Paris, and other world centres.

Ladbroke, already a leading hotelier in Britain, will now have more than 50,000 bedrooms around the world.

Ladbroke coup, page 23

## Councils pay £1,000 a week for temporary staff

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Some local councils are paying £1,000 a week to specialist employment agencies to fill a single accountant's job.

According to the first returns from a survey of councils carried out by the Local Authorities Conditions of Service Advisory Board (LACSAB), shortages of staff in accounting and computing have forced councils to pay large sums for temporary staff.

One council, Bath, where no one party has overall control, has recently been paying £2,000 a week to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to supply two temporary qualified assistants to

its treasurer's department. Councils there recently agreed to pay a "market rate supplement" to attract qualified accountants.

The survey found that 41 per cent of local authorities in England and Wales are reporting problems with recruiting and retaining staff. It confirmed previous evidence that recruitment is most difficult in London and the South-east. In the capital, two-thirds of councils say they have trouble getting the right staff.

In London, the rate at which people leave council employment is also higher. Turnover there is 17 per cent per year for white collar staff, compared with 15 per cent nationally.

In parts of London, councils have been paying computer consultants up

to £1,000 a week for short-term cover for vacancies.

The survey is likely to be used by ministers to strengthen their arguments for the break-up of national pay bargaining between councils and their staff. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, recently urged councils to strike local bargains with their workers and cease relying on national pay scales.

LACSAB said: "Local authorities are competing with private firms which offer a variety of perks for workers including cars, mortgage assistance and other fringe benefits."

"There is an inflexible supply of certain types of workers, including accountants, which has not been able to match an increased demand."

District councils in the South-east admit they are having to "sweeten the salary pot" to attract not only accountants but also building controllers, legal officers and solicitors. Inner London authorities have reported such difficulties in attracting qualified staff that they are having to offer City-style "golden hellos" - or starting bonuses.

Councils have also reduced the throughput of their own, locally-trained accountants. Some blame the CIPFA block release scheme, introduced in the early eighties, which means that a trainee is not in the office for 39 weeks a year. "Nobody wants to pay for training accountants who are simply working somewhere else", one treasurer said.

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## NEWS SUMMARY

## Jail officers turn prisoners away

Action by prison officers has thwarted government measures designed to empty police cells of remand prisoners by today. Lord Cuthbert, Home Office Minister with special responsibility for prisons, said yesterday that police cells in the South-east held 250 prisoners. The total could exceed 570 within two weeks because officers in Wandsworth, Pentonville and Ashford, Middlesex, are refusing to accept any new prisoners as part of a campaign to increase staff levels.

The Home Secretary recently announced a series of moves — including early release for some prisoners and the use of a former Army camp — to ease overcrowding in jails. But Mr Stephen Spratling, Wandsworth branch secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, said this had done nothing to help London prisons.

## Motorist Drug ring released smashed

A motorist jailed for one month for arriving late at court, was freed after six days by the recorder at Teesside Crown Court yesterday.

Mr John Hampton said magistrates at Sedgfield, Co Durham, "went over the top" and quashed the jail sentence on Mr Tony Fletcher, aged 24, of Church St, Shildon, Co Durham, imposed for a breach of bail.

Mr Fletcher had arrived 100 minutes late to face a summons of driving while disqualified. That summons remains.

## Thieves take 10 guns

Thieves have stolen 10 shotguns in three raids in the Midlands over the past two weeks. Warwickshire police said last night.

They said there was no evidence to connect each incident, or that the thieves were looking for guns.

● Dunmore Shooting Centre at Abingdon, Oxfordshire, where Michael Ryan, the Hungerford gunman, was a member, has won a commendation from the Country Landowners' Association for its contribution to the rural economy. The record made to raise cash for the Hungerford fund, which has now raised more than £500,000, goes on sale today. Advance sales have topped 20,000.

## Premier's life story

Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the former Irish prime minister who signed the Anglo-Irish accord on behalf of the republic, is to write his autobiography.

Dr Fitzgerald, aged 61, said yesterday he had no idea what to call his book. "Never write the introduction until you've written the book and never think about a title until you've written the introduction."

Although still a member of the Dublin parliament, Dr Fitzgerald says he is glad to be away from the pressure of politics.

## Councils in pay deal

Negotiators representing 7,000 senior local government officers last night agreed a 7 per cent pay rise which gives up to £2,500 extra a year.

Leaders of the Federated Union of Managerial and Professional Officers have accepted a new pay structure based on the populations of council areas.

The union represents senior officers below the rank of chief executive, such as directors of education and highways, chief architects and their immediate deputies.

## Converted buildings win top farm awards

A gamekeeper's cottage in Wiltshire, a farm hotel in Dyfed, a Cornish calf rearing unit and a Northumberland workshop are among the winners of farm building awards announced yesterday.

The competition, open to farmers, landowners and their builders in England and Wales, attracted a record 118 entries. Almost a third received awards or commendations.

Many of the awards illus-



## TUC council opposes Scargill nuclear motion

By Roland Rudd

Trade union leaders yesterday rejected a proposal by Mr Arthur Scargill that the TUC should seek a halt to Britain's nuclear power programme.

Mr Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, had refused a request to withdraw his motion, which also called for a phasing out of all nuclear power stations as soon as possible.

The TUC had asked him to pull out in favour of the

report of its nuclear energy review body, which will be presented to congress next week.

Yesterday the TUC general council decided to oppose his motion.

Meanwhile moderate leaders of the Amalgamated Engineering Union also defied a request that they remit a motion on energy.

Mr Bill Jordan, president of the AEU, said yesterday that he would have liked to have remitted his motion in favour of unity, as he did not want to

pre-empt the TUC's own review body.

However he felt, in the light of the decision by the NUM to push its anti-nuclear motion, that he could not withdraw his own while there was a possibility that Mr Scargill could still carry the day.

Mr Jordan added that it was no coincidence that the miners' resolution contained a reference to the 1986 Labour Party conference, which voted overwhelmingly for a non-nuclear energy policy.

Mr Jordan said it was not surprising in the light of that

decision that the Labour Party was not in office today.

Mr Jordan's union is also fighting a rearguard action against a motion on defence reaffirming support for British nuclear disarmament.

The AEU has tabled an amendment calling for a referendum "on the question of British nuclear disarmament".

Mr Scargill, who had refused to withdraw his nuclear energy motion because he could not accept the report and was committed to a strident anti-nuclear policy,

was also isolated when he voted against a TUC statement on equal rights.

Several unions had tabled motions for amendments calling for a separate women's department to be set up within the TUC.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, had expressed concern that such a move would be not only too costly but might also be in breach of equal opportunities legislation.

The unions concerned agreed to a statement to be put by Mr Willis to the TUC

next week, calling for an equal rights department "to combat all forms of discrimination".

The statement adds: "In this context it would accelerate the review already under way following the 1987 TUC women's conference resolution calling for the establishment of a women's department".

However it was not clear yesterday whether the Confederation of Health Service Employees would be prepared to withdraw its motion — calling for a separate women's department.

## British Coal code changes not enough says Scargill

By Roland Rudd

Industrial action within the coal industry came closer yesterday after Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said that British Coal's offer to amend its controversial disciplinary code was not enough for the union to call off its plan for an indefinite overtime ban.

The coal board, after talks with Aca, the conciliation service, had agreed to abide by industrial tribunal decisions to reinstate dismissed miners and to withdraw a veto on who could represent them in internal disciplinary hearings, provided they had not been dismissed.

Mr Scargill said the qualification of who a pit man could have as his representative in a hearing was unacceptable.

It was equally unacceptable that the coal board was not prepared to reintroduce the pit umpire system of binding arbitration on disciplinary cases which had to be heard within 14 days.

The difficulty for management is that there is now very little ground between the NUM and the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers. The UDM has made clear it will not return to the pit umpire system and instead favours the system of indus-

trial tribunal as is set out in the present code.

The coal board was hoping that its offer to abide by the decisions of industrial tribunals, which it has not always done in the past, would elicit a positive response from the NUM president, but Mr Scargill said yesterday that the peace offer would not avert action.

"British Coal are insisting on an industrial tribunal under which, in certain circumstances, they could not agree to reinstate the miner, and if they did reinstate him, it would not be to his old job."

The NUM executive intends to meet on Sunday morning to agree a form of industrial action to take place by September 21. Under the government's trade union legislation, industrial action can take place only within 28 days of a ballot.

Time is now running out for Mr Scargill, who is trying to blame the present impasse on the trade union legislation. He said: "We are always willing to negotiate, but our members have decided by a 77 per cent majority (of those who voted) that unless our five points are accepted there will be trouble in the coalfields."

## Steel to attack on defence

Mr David Steel and Mr Robert MacLennan, the new SDP leader, are set to clash tomorrow when they meet in Scotland for their first discussions on the formation of a new merged party.

Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, will impress on Mr MacLennan that he cannot have both a one-member-one-vote system in a new merged party and policy commitments in advance of its formation.

Liberals are alarmed at Mr MacLennan's insistence that the new party should be committed to maintaining both Britain's nuclear deterrent and nuclear power.

Senior Liberals are willing to concede one-member-one-vote, but argue that the constitution should be accompanied by no more than a declaration of broad principles on defence.

Mr John Patten, the Home Office minister, yesterday invited members of the Owenite group of the SDP to join the Conservatives rather than go into "political oblivion".

## Nine-hour ordeal of hostages

Fifteen people were held hostage by an IRA gang for more than nine hours in a house in Londonderry, it was disclosed yesterday.

Three masked men, one armed, forced their way into a woman's home in the Penumburn area soon after noon and she and a child were held while the family car was taken.

During the next nine hours on Wednesday everyone who called at the house was taken hostage. Eventually six adults, including a pregnant woman, and nine children aged between three months and 12 years, were detained.

Their ordeal ended when the car was returned and the gang left.

● In Belfast, the RUC said guns found in a Protestant area of the city yesterday were part of a haul stolen from an Ulster Defence Regiment armoury last week. Tests on a pistol and light machine gun showed the weapons had been among 18 stolen from Palace Barracks.

## Security blackout on Thatcher



Mrs Thatcher caught in a gust of wind as she was wrapping up against the Scottish weather yesterday during her visit to the National Outdoor Training Centre at Glenmore Lodge, near Aviemore in the Highlands (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

By Nicholas Wood

Political Reporter

Downing Street has imposed a blackout on advance details of the Prime Minister's series of visits to the inner cities planned for later this month in the wake of the alleged IRA plot to assassinate Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Police fear a wider conspiracy aimed at Cabinet ministers in the run-up to the Conservative Party conference next month.

Party sources said yesterday that security had been tightened across Whitehall and particular attention was being paid to protect the Prime Minister. The clampdown is causing consid-

erable worry for those responsible for organizing Mrs Thatcher's tour, which comes in the wake of her stated determination to make urban renewal the centrepiece of her new administration.

Yesterday, meanwhile, the Prime Minister watched demonstrations of climbing and canoeing on the final day of her official visit to Scotland. At Glenmore Lodge, the National Outdoor Training Centre, near Aviemore in the Highlands, she watched rock climbing techniques and saw canoeists training to be instructors.

Mrs Thatcher presented a group of Boys' Brigade officers with certificates to mark the successful completion of a mountaineering course. She said she was impressed with the work of the centre,

which is run by the Scottish Sports Council and instructs about 7,400 people each year in climbing, canoeing, sailing, skiing and mountain rescue.

"The young people who come here meet the challenge, they go away fit and they know to respect the lochs, the rivers and the mountains and they have a tremendous time," she said.

Mrs Thatcher, who said she had "loved" her visit to Scotland, was expected to spend the weekend at Balmoral Castle with the Royal Family.

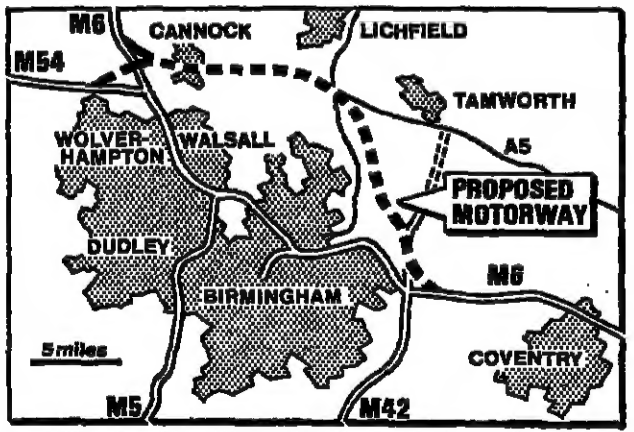
But her visit was criticised by Mr Donald Dewar, Labour spokesman on Scotland, who said she was out of touch with Scottish reality "and badly needs help and advice".

## Motorway plan to ease congestion

Plans for a three-lane motorway to relieve congestion around Birmingham were published yesterday by the Department of Transport.

The 33-mile road will run from the M54 at Featherstone, Staffordshire, to an M42 junction at Dutton Island near Curdworth, Warwickshire, to the east of Birmingham.

From there, traffic will use the widened and improved M42 past Colehill and rejoin the M6 by a new link south of the town.



The main beneficiaries of the new road will be M6 drivers. At peak times that motorway has been overloaded, with accidents and roadworks causing long delays.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said that the draft proposals for the new Birmingham Northern Relief Road were "a significant step towards easing the traffic problems of the region."

## Baker's move over teacher

By Martin Fletcher

Political Reporter

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, has broken a Scottish holiday to intervene in a dispute involving a tiny village school in Devon.

He has taken the rare step of issuing a direction to Devon County Council under section 68 of the Education Act, 1944, ordering it to drop its plan to move Mrs Josephine Baron, a teacher, to Burlescombe Church of England primary school near Tiverton.

The school governors insist that Mrs Baron is unsuitable for the job.

However, Mr Jocelyn Owen, the council's chief education officer, said yesterday that the authority may try to circumvent Mr Baker's direction.

If the school successfully resisted her appointment, he said, the council's whole strategy for redeploying surplus teachers would be jeopardized.

Burlescombe Primary has only three teachers but its predicament has attracted the personal attention of two senior government figures. Mr Baker intervened at the behest of Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney General, who was himself persuaded to intervene by Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, Conservative MP for Tiverton, earlier this summer.

As reported in *The Times*, Mr Maxwell-Hyslop, the procedural master par excellence of Westminster, came to the rescue of the beleaguered school by reminding Sir Patrick of an obscure power of his office which enables him in an ex-officio capacity to call for a full judicial review in cases where a public authority appears to have abused its powers.

Sir Patrick duly called for submissions from both sides, found that the council had a case to answer, but decided it was a matter for Mr Baker.

Mr Owen is now asking the education committee to consider another way of forcing the school to take on Mrs Baron.

## Sunday Times

Gucci is a status symbol, a byword for quality products which has created the myth that ownership carries with it an aura of charm and elegance. However the real world of the Gucci family is rather different.

In a recent boardroom struggle the argument became so heated that a senior family member, Paolo Gucci, was struck on the head and suffered an injury which led to him being taken to hospital.

Tomorrow *The Sunday Times* magazine takes a look at the internal strife of this wealthy family who are going hell for leather.

The newspaper also continues its serialization of the biography of Kenneth Tynan by his widow, Kathleen, in which she tells for the first time of her husband's influence in setting up the National Theatre.

By the mid-1960s, Tynan was established as the most influential drama critic of his generation. Such was his eminence that Laurence Olivier could not ignore him when he insisted on playing a key part in running the new theatre. Their extraordinary and productive relationship was to lead to a golden age of British theatre.

## BBC seminar to discuss violence

The BBC is to hold a one-day seminar for its programme makers to discuss television and violence. Mr Michael Checkland, director general, announced last night (*Our Arts Correspondent writes*).

He decided to instigate the seminar after attending a meeting yesterday for senior executives from the BBC, Independent Broadcasting Authority, ITV and Channel 4. The meeting was originally planned to consider implications of the Government's expected proposals to extend the Obscene Publications Act to broadcasting.

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## I see no crisis, says smiling CAA chief

By Philip Jacobson

Gazing out at the panoramic view from the chairman's eyrie in the Civil Aviation Authority's tower in central London, Mr Christopher Tugendhat observes that his first year in office has proved very interesting.

Reminded of the ancient Chinese curse "May you live in interesting times", the 50-year-old financial journalist-turned-MP-turned-Eurocrat smilingly observes that some people consider solving problems to be the spice of life.

Mr Tugendhat's most pressing problem is to try to resolve the industrial action by Britain's 1,030 air traffic control engineers before holiday-makers suffer the sort of disruption caused by Spain's air controllers.

There have been questions about the policies he has pursued in complex negotiations with the eight sections of his staff at the CAA: he has, after all, just sanctioned a big pay increase for the air traffic controllers.

Some observers say it was asking for trouble to expect the equally well-trained and dedicated engineers, who maintain vital navigational



Christopher Tugendhat: interesting times

aids and control tower equipment, to accept what they see as a significantly smaller pay deal.

Mr Tugendhat says there is no crisis and he believes the problems can be resolved. "My years in Brussels taught me, above all, how to set about reconciling a vast range of different and conflicting interests."

He says the present situation has to be viewed against

the broader background of the CAA's activities.

This summer's unprecedented increase in air traffic around Britain has imposed abnormal strains on controllers and on equipment which, Mr Tugendhat concedes, he felt the impact of an investment programme falling seriously behind schedule. At the same time, the CAA has been undergoing a drastic restructuring with a view to breaking "the Whitehall link".

Throw in the privatization of the British Airports Authority and the proposed merger of British Airways and British Caledonian — both matters touching directly upon the CAA's area of responsibility — and it is easier to understand why the chairman takes much pride in the fact that there have been no strikes during the complicated negotiations with his staff.

Mr Tugendhat says: "I've been deeply impressed by the strength of the tradition of civil responsibility and service among everyone working here."

"They are acutely conscious that this business affects real people inside those flying machines. Most CAA people are doing what they want to

do, and my aim is to keep it that way."

Not entirely to his surprise, his four-days-a-week post (Mrs Thatcher personally approved the £48,000 per year appointment, in spite of rumours that Number Ten finds his politics somewhat "soggy") frequently overflows.

So far his other interests, ranging from directorships with National Westminster Bank and the BOC group to chairman of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, have not suffered too much. He considers it something of an achievement to have slipped in a summer holiday in Cape Cod with his wife and two children, though that involved a deal of transatlantic telephone calling.

As Mr Tugendhat points out, the view from his office stretches from the City to Westminster: appropriate, some might say, for the role the CAA is increasingly adopting in the rapidly changing world of civil aviation.

More interesting times surely lie ahead for its energetic chairman, whose parting words were a reminder that the job he has held for longest, machines. Most CAA people are doing what they want to

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## Cleveland schools scheme seeks to counter sex abuse

By Peter Davenport

New measures to detect sexual abuse in young children and to help its victims are to be introduced in primary schools throughout Cleveland.

The scheme is intended to cover up to 50,000 youngsters aged between five and 11 years in 250 schools in the county.

Its aim is to raise the awareness of child sexual abuse among teachers and to equip them better both to detect it and to help to prevent more cases by making youngsters aware of the risk and how they can protect themselves.

Details of the programme were outlined at the Cleveland sex abuse controversy by Mr Charles Town, the county's chief education social worker.

All head teachers and governing bodies of the primary schools had already been contacted and asked to nominate a teacher representative to be briefed on the programme.

Eight of the teachers have been recruited and will be trained as consultants, to pass on the latest information on detecting and handling cases of sexual abuse to schools.

A senior education social worker has also been appointed to co-ordinate council policy on the problem.

Mr Town said later that the intention of the programme was to raise the issue of sexual abuse with teachers to enable them both to detect signs of the problem in children and also how to cope with any disclosures made to them by youngsters.

It was also intended to make the children aware of the problem as part of the curriculum.

lum which already deals with aspects of personal safety of youngsters, including such aspects as road safety and the dangers of talking to strangers.

The council, he said, was anxious to involve the support of parents and the scheme was voluntary on the schools, although there had been a high level of response.

Mr Town said: "Sometimes a teacher can be the first call for a child who is being abused especially if he feels he can't go within the family. The child may not talk openly but may give signs or hints, and it is important that teachers are able to recognize those and are equipped to cope with such disclosures."

Any cases of suspected child sexual abuse would then be reported to the education social work department.

Mr Town told the inquiry, under Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss, that most of the concern in schools had been about physical abuse of children. However in the past year there had been an increasing number of sexual abuse disclosures by children to teachers in Cleveland.

It was important to have teachers in schools who were trained in handling such disclosures because some members of staff simply could not cope with such revelations.

The inquiry also heard yesterday further evidence from nurses at the Middlesbrough General Hospital who detailed the confusion, chaos, concern and disruption brought on by the sudden increase in numbers of alleged victims of sexual abuse who were housed in Ward 9 when council

establishments and foster homes all became full because of the crisis.

Mrs Jacqueline Wilkinson told of the evening a young girl was admitted as a suspected sexual abuse victim. Later that night she was told that two other children from the same family were about to be admitted, and she contacted one of the hospital's consultant paediatricians, Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, to protest that there was simply no room.

She was told to move two other sick children in the ward to another part of the hospital. A boy aged four, just out of traction for a fractured femur, and a diabetic child aged 12 were woken in the middle of the night, much to their distress, to be moved, she said.

The social worker then telephoned to say she could not find the children, so they would not be coming after all.

The two young patients were taken off the trolleys and put back to bed in Ward 9.

However, just 10 minutes later the social worker called again to say that she had now found her young charges and was bringing them in. The two sick children had to be disturbed again and moved. Nurse Wilkinson said.

Mrs Hilary Morrison, the sister in charge of Ward 9, told how a search party had to be organized when two of the children in care as victims of suspected sexual abuse apparently disappeared.

For five hours no one knew where they were until a social worker telephoned from Leeds to say she had taken them for a second medical opinion.

On another occasion a mother arrived at the ward saying she had permission to take her two children home. They had been under place of safety orders at the hospital. No one had told the nurses on duty, and a social worker had to be contacted.

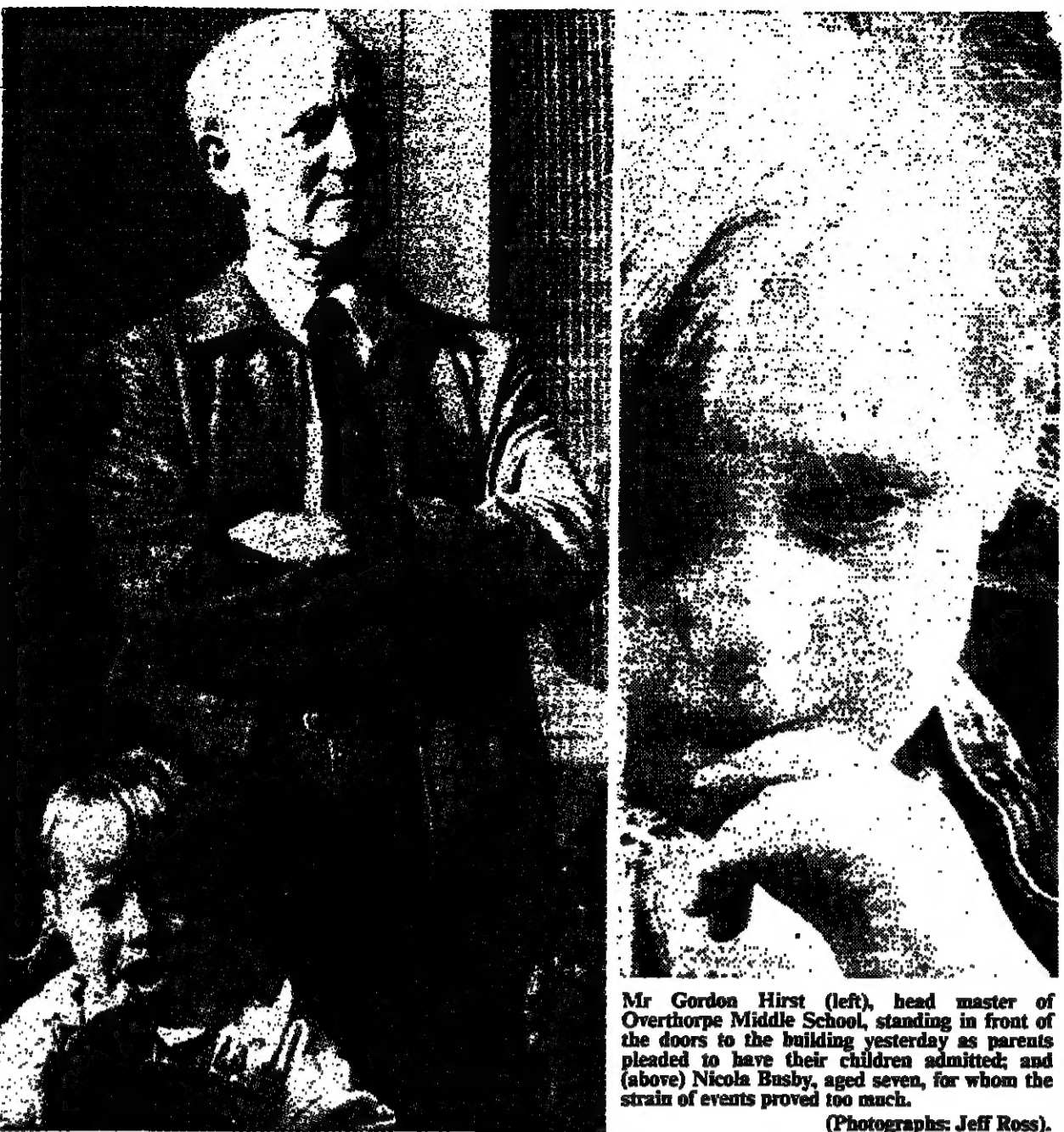
The inquiry was adjourned until September 14.

West Yorkshire's top social workers are being pulled out of the child protection battle to write reports for local juvenile courts.

The demand for reports has risen by nearly 50 per cent this year in the Bradford, Leeds and Calderdale areas, creating a growing backlog.

Local councils face a shortage of suitably qualified workers even if vacancies are advertised, and short-term foster parents are being put under strain, Mr Alan Caygill, a Bradford council officer, says.

## Boycott threat in schools battle



By Sarah Thompson  
Education Reporter

Parents are planning a mass boycott on Monday of a school in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, if 26 children who have been refused places are not admitted.

The 26 families fear their children's progress will suffer in the school chosen for them by the Kirkless education authority, because 93 per cent of its pupils are of Asian origin. The families' case is to be considered urgently by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education. He has powers to order Kirkless to allow the children to attend Overthorpe Middle School, which has two empty temporary classrooms and where most of the pupils are white.

Meanwhile on Monday morning, 11 of 13 children who were refused places at Overthorpe instead of Headfield Church of England Middle School will be taken

home by their parents if the 26 are not admitted, and other children are expected to follow.

Mrs Avril Carter, who has two children at Overthorpe, one of whom was originally put down for Headfield, said: "A considerable number of the other parents at the school say they are willing to join the boycott. We shall not take them into school until the 26 children are allowed in."

The parents say their objections to Headfield School, which is nearer to their homes, are because English is used largely as a second language there, and because Christianity is not emphasized enough. They say their reasons are cultural and educational, not racial.

A total of 300 people signed a petition supporting the families yesterday. The governors of Overthorpe school have also given their support, but they have no control over admission limits.

Yesterday Mr Gordon Hirst, Overthorpe's head teacher, told parents at the school gate: "I must not let any of you into school."

Children chanted "let us in, let us in" and some were in tears.

Kirkless education authority maintains that although Overthorpe has empty classrooms it cannot take the children because it is to become a school for children aged between five and 11 and will need more room.

A council found guilty of maladministration because it refused a school place to an "exceptionally bright" boy aged three and a half is to challenge the decision.

The local ombudsman last month recommended that Stockport Council should reimburse £1,200 in school fees to the boy's parents, who sent him to a private school.

## Alertness could end 'hospital disease'

By Thomson Prentice  
Science Correspondent

Outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease in hospitals could be halted if doctors were more alert to the risks, a specialist said yesterday.

Hospital patients are more likely to die from the disease than the healthy community because their resistance is lowered by illness or surgery, Dr Ron Fallon said.

"They are like a ploughed field ready to have the seeds of infection planted", Dr Fallon said at the Hospital Infection Society conference in London.

The worst hospital outbreak happened at Staffordshire General Hospital two years ago when 28 patients died. In the same year five patients died in Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

The disease, like pneumonia, is caused by a bacterium carried on airborne moisture particles, often generated by air conditioning plants or water supplies in large buildings including hospitals.

Dr Fallon, consultant in laboratory medicine at Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow, said: "If medical microbiologists were continuously on the alert and suspected the diagnosis in all cases of hospital pneumonia, the first case of Legionnaires' disease identified would prompt the need to inspect all the hospital engineering systems."

"Outbreaks on the scale of those seen in recent years could then be prevented and lives saved."

Ten per cent of victims die but early treatment is effective, Dr Fallon said. "Swift detection is crucial." The conference has been emphasizing the need for medical microbiologists in British hospitals. There are only 177 at present, but twice as many are required, according to Professor Mark Casewell, of King's College Hospital, London.

## Pickets at Aids clinic harm trial

An experimental needle exchange clinic, designed to help curb the spread of Aids and hepatitis, is being virtually ignored by drug addicts who are frightened by local opposition.

The unit was opened in Glasgow on June 22 to cater for up to forty addicts a week. It could cope with even more if necessary. But after 11 weeks, fewer than fifty addicts have visited the clinic at the Ruchill Hospital.

Specialists agreed yesterday that picketing by local residents, who have threatened to photograph visitors, had frightened addicts away. Council workers in York who refuse to work alongside colleagues with Aids may face disciplinary action.

A new council employment policy recommends that discrimination against Aids sufferers should not be tolerated.

## Mother fails in court plea to see daughters

A young Cleveland mother begged court in vain yesterday to be allowed to see the two daughters hidden from her for four months by social workers.

But the magistrates told the distraught woman, aged 24, that they were powerless to help. Their chairman, Mr Peter Fulford, told her: "We haven't any authority on access."

The girls, aged two and four, will stay with foster parents for another 28 days under a further interim care order.

In May the unmarried Middlesbrough mother asked for them and her son aged one to be taken into care because she could not cope.

She also said their father, from whom she is parted, had sexually abused the elder girl.

The woman, who is allowed a weekly visit to her son, told Middlesbrough Juvenile Court: "The social workers say I can't see my daughters because it upsets them. But they only cry because they want to come home to me."

Her solicitor, Mr Nick Woodhouse, said: "She has done them no harm but soon they won't know her."

Mr Raymond Morris, of Cleveland social services, said: "I am unhappy from what I hear about the access position."

## Swim star is fined over stolen cheques

Mark Foster, Britain's fastest freestyle swimmer, enjoyed himself at casinos with money obtained from stolen cheques, magistrates in Tavistock, Devon, were told yesterday.

Foster, who was 16 at the time, admitted forging cheques after "finding" a cheque card belonging to a fellow pupil at his public school, Kelly College.

Foster and fellow national swimmer Jason Iveney, both aged 17, spent the money while taking part in a national swimming competition in Cardiff, the court heard.

Mrs Anne Hampshire, for the prosecution, said Foster found the cheque card on a footpath at the school. Another boy then stole the corresponding cheque book from a locker.

Foster, of Alexander Road, Southend, Essex, was fined £160, including costs and compensation, after admitting stealing the cheque card, handing a stolen cheque book and forging cheques. Iveney, of Elm Park, Hornchurch, Essex, was fined £185.

## Actress is fined over cocaine sent in letter

Maria Aitken, the actress, was fined £500 plus £100 costs yesterday for helping to import cocaine into Britain.

After the hearing, at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, central London, she refused to identify the supplier who posted the drugs from Peru.

Miss Aitken, aged 41, became involved in the smuggling operation through her charity work for the needy in the Peruvian jungle town of Iquitos, the court was told.

"She is quite horrified of the example she has set by this behaviour. It was a private use and a very rare use", Mr Peter Clark, for the defence, said.

Mr Charles Davidson, the magistrate, read character references from the Peruvian ambassador to London and others, including Anthony Quayle, the actor.

Miss Aitken, former wife of Nigel Davenport, the actor, was charged under the name of Davenport. She admitted being involved in the importation of 557 milligrams of cocaine - worth £180 - in two letters addressed to her

home in Kennington Road, Kennington, south London, on about August 21.

Miss Nancy Palfreyman, for the prosecution, said customs officers intercepted the letters about three weeks after her return from Peru.

The actress, who played a leading role with Jill Bennett in the television situation comedy, *Poor Little Rich Girl*, and presented the "chat show", *Private Lives*, was arrested at Twickenham studios by customs officers.

Maria Aitken: "horrified by her behaviour".

## UK firms win more car sales

British motorists spent more than £3 billion on new cars in August as registrations reached a record 407,333, almost 7 per cent higher than in the same month last year. (Our Motor Industry Correspondent writes).

The market share taken by British cars has also increased.

Since January, sales have climbed to 1.45 million and the post-election buying boom is now expected to push new car registrations in 1987 to a record of close to two million.

Jaguar recorded the biggest improvement with sales rising 66 per cent to 2,144.

Ford headed the market, selling 107,093 cars, 6,000 more than the previous August.

Austin Rover pushed the Metro up to third position in the best selling league behind the Ford Escort and Fiesta.

Vauxhall sold no more cars than in the previous August and its market share slipped slightly to 13.7 per cent.

For Peugeot Talbot, the French 205 model was the top selling import, reaching eighth position overall for the first time, while the British-built 309 narrowly missed the top 10.

German manufacturers showed a lost market share while Citroen, Fiat and Seat all gained.

Japanese sales, limited by quotas, remained static.

## Chemist 'in cancer pill swap'

A cancer sufferer yesterday told how for two weeks he took tablets prescribed by his consultant unaware they were headache pills.

The mistake arose because the aspirin had been switched by an expensive cancer drug by a chemist in another part of the country, it was alleged.

Ompakish Sood, the chemist, had kept the Adroc tablets and refilled the bottles with aspirin before returning them as unwanted to a wholesaler.

The pills, some also labelled as heart disease drugs, were later re-distributed by the unsuspecting firm to other

pharmacists who passed them on to patients. Mr Vivian Robinson, for the prosecution, told Snaresbrook Crown Court, east London.

The cancer sufferer, Mr Christopher Lynch, told the court he had been told to take two Adroc tablets three times daily by a consultant. Before going on holiday he checked how many were left in the bottle.

He said: "It was then I noticed some were plain and different from others, 36 of them in all, so I took them back."

Mr Lynch, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, returned them to

his chemist, who traced them to a wholesaler.

The wholesaler realized the bottles had been sent back to them by Mr Sood from his shop in High Road, Wornley, Hertfordshire. Mr Robinson said.

Mr Sood denies theft of 100 Adroc, 500 Aldactide and 500 Primolut-n tablets and three charges of deception and one of intending to pervert the course of justice.

Mr Robinson said the actions of Mr Sood, aged 40, were "both dishonest and potentially very dangerous".

The trial continues on Monday.

## Opera chorus is singing a sad song

By Lynda Mordin, Arts Correspondent

Mr Richard Hazell swells the chorus of the Royal Opera House. He can sing in five languages. Yet he is paid 50 times less for a week's work than an opera star commands for a single performance, and has about half the income of a stage electrician.

With theatrical fashions changing, he is seriously thinking of offering his talents to what he calls the "pop merchants". Sir John Tooley, general director, faced with a dispute that threatens the start of the new season next Saturday, admits the chorus is underpaid, but he is hard-pressed to find a solution.

The 69 regular singers frequently portray the poor looking in on the antics of the rich. Now that is how they are beginning to feel in real life.

Longstanding members such as Mr Hazell receive £176 a week for nine three

hour sessions, which their union, Equity, points out can often be longer. Morning and evening sessions, plus travel, can sometimes take up a whole day.

New chorus members earn £158.15 a week, not much more than the £140 it costs for two of the best seats. And a world ranking singer on the same stage, Equity points out, can earn £9,000 for a single performance.

Rejecting the management's offer of a 4 per cent increase, the chorus members asked for comparisons with settlements agreed with the chorus of the English National Opera and salaries paid to other unions in the Royal Opera House.

They are well aware they would earn much more in the chorus of *The Phantom of the Opera*, or any of the big West End musicals, where the best seats cost a maximum of £20,

than they do in the country's foremost opera house.

Chorus members in *Chess*, *Cats* and *Starlight Express* are, according to Equity, paid between £225 and £250 a week. The official union minimum is £145.

Not that Royal Opera House chorus members such as Mr Hazell could dash along Drury Lane and join the libretto of *Cats*. Mr Hazell, a bass baritone who won a scholarship in the late 1950s to the Royal College of Music, has rather different skills, including being able to sing in five languages.

Inside, as well as outside the Royal Opera House, rates paid to regular employees can make the chorus feel rather *placid*. Until accepting their separate 4 per cent offer, orchestra players, members of the Musicians' Union, were paid £227 a week for seven

three-hour sessions. Their opportunities for overtime, working for the two resident ballet companies as well as the opera, are also greater and recording contracts more frequent.

Then there are members of the Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance, whose rates of pay are as varied as their jobs. A stage electrician earns £169 for a 45 hour week, but with frequent Sunday and night working, earns up to £15,000 a year.

The English National Opera chorus has a guaranteed weekly minimum wage of £190.

Mr Peter Plouviez, general secretary of Equity, and Sir John are discussing ways to save next Saturday's opening production of Wagner's *Tannhäuser*. Cancellation of one performance would cost £40,000 in box office receipts.

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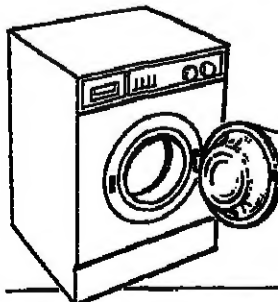
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# Civil Servants call for protection from assaults at work

By Roland Rudd

The Government was urged yesterday to protect Britain's half-million Civil Servants who work amid fear of abuse and violence from the public.

The call came from the Council of Civil Service Unions, which represents all nine Whitehall unions.

It cited as examples an unemployment benefit office which was attacked with CS gas, a revenue officer attacked with a hammer and robbed, and offices fire-bombed and wrecked, and sexual attacks against women staff members.

Mr Charles Cochrane, secretary of the CCSU's welfare committee, said the council was demanding urgent discussions to tackle the problem at all levels within the Civil Service.

"The Government must also accept that it is often its own policies cutting back on benefits and service which lead to the violent attacks", he said.

Mr Cochrane said: "It is an everyday occurrence that Civil Servants are abused and threatened, both at work and

away from it, simply because of the job they try to do on behalf of the Government.

"These problems are not restricted to the inner cities; they exist in almost every department and throughout the country, and the perpetrators of violence come from all sections of society."

He said the Government must accept that no Civil Servant should have to suffer abuse or violence as a consequence of his or her work.

A survey had shown that only the Stationery Office had escaped any abuse or threats from the public.

People working at the Home Office complained of living under the constant threat of "hate mail" sent from the Animal Liberation Front.

Others who work in unemployment benefit offices in inner cities complained of their fear of having to walk to their bus stops in the evenings under the possible threat of attack.

The Civil Service trade unions have promised to take

urgent steps to tackle the problems.

The unions are demanding urgent discussions with their employers at all levels within the Civil Service.

They will be pressing the Government to bring the attacks and abuse to light.

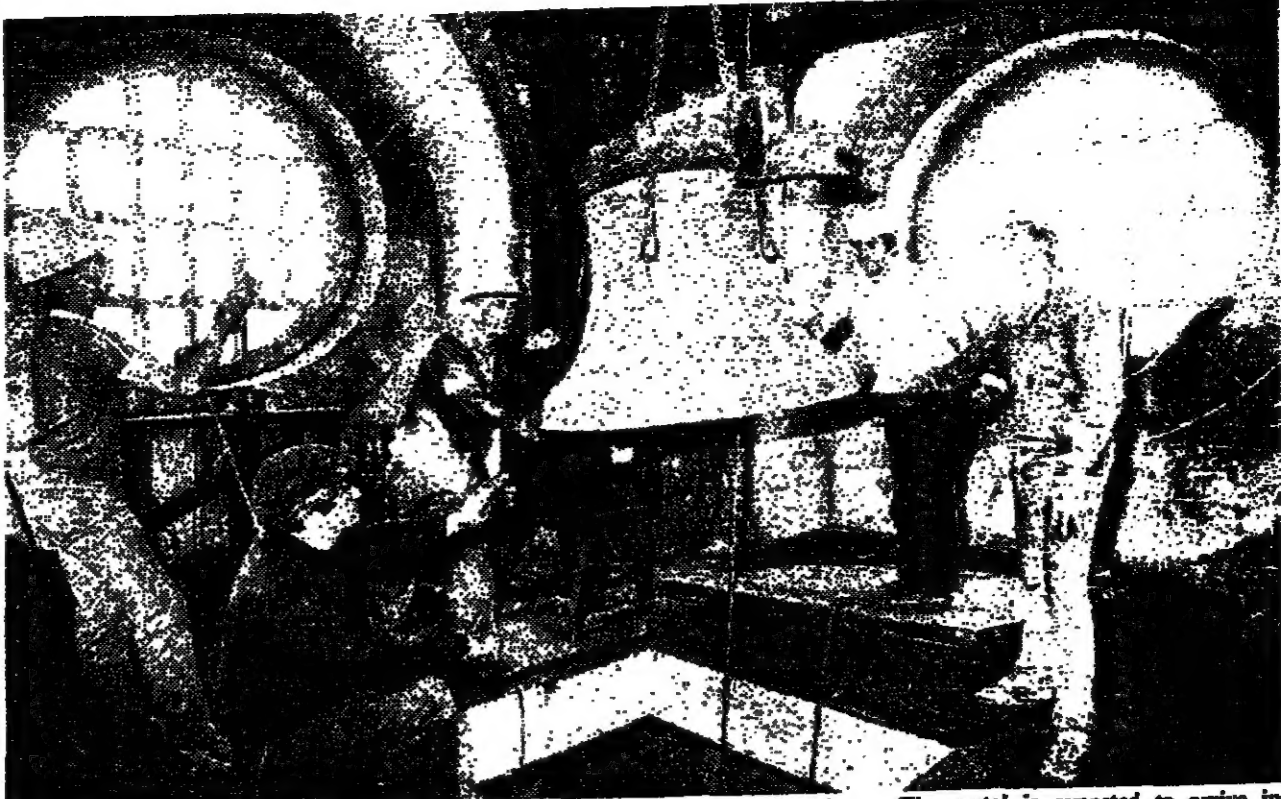
Mr Cochrane was announcing the conclusions of a private seminar held earlier in the year and attended by trade union representatives from most government departments.

He said: "We shall be demanding that the Civil Service tackle this as a national problem."

"Working practices, office design and training for Civil Servants on how to defend themselves against attacks, must all be urgently examined to ensure that potentially explosive situations are defused."

The council is also pressing for the withdrawal of benefit offices in run-down inner city areas where poor street lighting has led to frequent attacks outside offices against Civil Servants returning home.

# End for the bells of St Martin



By Andrew Morgan

One of the 12 bells of St Martin-in-the-Fields, in central London being taken down yesterday by a team of ringers (left to right) Keith Sibson, Peter Fleckney, Derek Sibson, Ben Duke, and David Garton.

Eight of the bells, which were cast in 1776, have been lowered to the ground already in preparation for shipment to Australia.

Those include the heaviest, weighing 38cwt, which bears the name of the

church's first vicar, the Rev Zachariah Pearce.

The bells, of which the lightest is 5cwt, were due to be melted down and recast because the ringing caused a discernible movement of the tower and also because their timbre was deemed not impressive.

The University of Western Australia in Perth asked for the 12 bells, which it intends to hang in the main campus tower. It offered to supply in return the 20 tons of tin and copper for a new set of bells, which are to be cast at the Whitechapel Foundry in east London.

The metal is expected to arrive in Britain in November and it is hoped to hang the 12 new bells, as well as a thirteenth, a sharp second bell for the peal, on a lower foundation next April.

The metal alone, 20 per cent tin and 80 per cent copper, will cost about £21,000. The casting and hanging will raise the total cost to £125,000.

For the ringers, the disappearance of the bells, cast near the church's site by Abraham Rudhall, from Gloucestershire, will be tinged with sadness.

(Photograph: John Rogers)

# Victorian image for shopping complex

Plans were unveiled yesterday for a £80 million shopping and leisure complex in Southport, Merseyside, which could create about 1,500 jobs.

The scheme to redevelop the town's Winter Gardens in Lord Street has been drawn up by the Manchester-based developers, Sibe.

The proposal includes a department store, 80 shops, an hotel and restaurants.

Its main feature will be a glass conservatory roof, 500ft long and 100ft wide, closely modelled on the original glass roof of the Victorian building.

Mr Michael Birchall, the company's chief executive, said: "What we are hoping to do is re-create the atmosphere of the early 1900s and combine that with modern retailing."

He said redeveloping the 10-acre site would transform Southport into one of the most important centres for shopping in the North-west, attracting people from throughout the region.

He said the scheme would consolidate existing retailing and bring more people into the town.

The developers expect to create 150 jobs in the department store, 75 in the larger stores, 500 in the shops, 70 in the food hall, 70 in management and 300 in the hotel. A further 350 jobs are likely to be created in ancillary services such as supply and distribution. The building work is likely to involve another 500 jobs.

The plans are to be discussed by Sefton council next month.

# Man of letters aiming for his ninth win

By Our Crossword Editor

Dr John Sykes, the Oxford lexicographer, will compete in the national final of *The Times*/Collins Dictionaries crossword championship tomorrow in the hope of winning the championship for the ninth time.

Because of his long domination of the title, he competes only in alternate years.

This year, however, the competition is likely to be stiff, as five of the seven past champions will be competing. They include Mr Roy Dean, of Bromley, who won the first championship in 1970 and who has recently retired from the diplomatic service.

The championship will be held at the Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, London, starting at 1.30pm.

There is room, at £2 a head, for up to 300 spectators who will be able to tackle the same puzzles as the finalists and other word games.

# Bus drivers' boycott stays

A weekend boycott of city centre stops by Hull bus drivers because of attacks on them could become permanent. The month-long boycott, from 10pm, should have ended yesterday, but after fresh violence the drivers decided it should continue.

# Tigers escape

Two tigers escaped from their cages at Woburn Safari Park in Bedfordshire yesterday after a keeper forgot to close a door. One was caught but the second became restless and was shot dead.

# Phillips case

A speeding case involving Captain Mark Phillips, charged with driving at 103mph on the M4, will be heard by Newbury magistrates on September 14.

# Churches sign pact of goodwill

By Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs  
Correspondent

A declaration beginning a new era of inter-church co-operation and goodwill was agreed and signed yesterday by 350 church leaders, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, and the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume.

It envisages the eventual unity of all churches in Britain.

It will be read from the pulpit in churches throughout Britain on a date in October. The declaration comes after three years of consultation involving hundreds of thousands of church members.

It also marks the beginning of a new three-year stage leading in 1990 to the winding up of the British Council of Churches, and its replacement with new national institutions of which the Roman Catholic Church, now outside the council, will play a full part.

That was made possible when Cardinal Hume announced to a church leaders' conference in Swanwick, Derbyshire, that the time had come for the Roman Catholic Church to make an official commitment at all levels to a new structure of inter-church co-operation.

Dr Runcie described the cardinal's announcement as a historic moment.

The declaration headed in English, Welsh and Gaelic "No Longer Strangers - Pilgrims", described the signatories as "the broadest assembly of British and Irish churches ever to meet in these islands" and declared they had reached a common mind.

It added: "We now declare together our readiness to commit ourselves to each other under God. Our earnest desire is to become more fully, in His own time, the one Church of Christ, united in faith, communion, pastoral care and mission."

The unity being sought would not be "uniformity but legitimate diversity". The church leaders declared that "no discouragement will make us relent our avowed intent".

Historic day, page 8

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# Small schools are facing vital test

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Small village schools are being wrongly judged by the yardstick of larger schools, a leading educational researcher said yesterday.

Dr Clare Burstall, director of the National Foundation for Educational Research, said that the Government's plan to introduce testing at seven, 11 and 14 will settle the question of whether school size really does affect children's achievements.

She has collated evidence from three years of schools inspectors' reports on schools with fewer than 125 pupils and concludes: "No evidence is presented in the reports which supports the view that a small school per se is inherently disadvantaged from an educational standpoint."

A consistent theme through the reports, she said, was praise for the schools' atmosphere, the good discipline, lack of vandalism and close links with the community.

Dr Burstall was speaking at

a conference organized by the Schumacher Society at Oxford Polytechnic. She said that "official" views, including the Conservative election manifesto this year, of small schools have assumed that the problem with small schools is their educational viability - whether they can deliver a broad curriculum with only a few teachers and within a reasonable budget.

But there has been relatively little research into the educational provision of small schools, she said, and the "official" attitude is based on opinion and not fact.

In her survey of inspectors' reports she found that many small schools were praised for providing a broad curriculum and for painstaking care in monitoring the achievements of individual pupils.

"I would maintain that the actual costs associated with the provision of small schools are extremely hard to quantify in any unequivocal way."

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## WORLD SUMMARY

## France to expel nine foreigners

Paris — The French Ministry of the Interior said yesterday that nine people were in the process of being expelled from the country "to prevent the risk of serious public disorder or threats against the state" (Susan MacDonald writes).

No names have been released and no specific reasons for the "urgent" expulsions — which are now a purely administrative procedure in France — have been given. Those to be expelled come from among 15 people of Lebanese, Tunisian, Libyan and Jordanian nationality who were taken into custody for questioning on Thursday. Police are said to have been acting on information received from West Germany.

The Communist newspaper *L'Humanité* gave the name of one of those arrested as Mr Elardh Nidal, a Palestinian of Jordanian nationality. The paper said that he had lived in France for six years and holds a valid 10-year residence permit, and claimed that it was "inadmissible" that he could be arrested and expelled without full reasons being given.

## Britons in Reluctant rail crash bomber

Lisbon — A Portuguese man was killed and five Britons, three other foreigners and more than 20 Portuguese were injured when two trains collided after one of them hit a car abandoned on the track on the Algarve, less than 10 miles from Faro, yesterday morning (Martha De la Cal writes).

Three members of a Portuguese family are thought to be lost under the wreckage.

The dead man worked for the Portuguese national train company. The five injured Britons, who were treated at the local hospital, were named as Mr Charles Coleman, aged 74, a Mr Stanton, aged 72, a Mr Kent and Mr and Mrs J. Edversfield. The Governor of Faro, Senhor Cabrito Neto, said that all were well enough to leave hospital. An investigating committee has been set up.

Jerusalem — Israel claimed yesterday it was holding an Egyptian allegedly sent by Syrian intelligence on a suicide mission in southern Lebanon (David Bernstein writes). According to Israel radio, Mr Ali Abdel Rahman Wahbeh was recruited in Egypt three years ago and trained and equipped with 25 lb of TNT by General Ghazi Kanan, head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon.

The radio claims that he gave himself up to Israeli forces in Lebanon last Saturday without making any attempt to carry out his suicide mission. Observers here draw attention to the timing of the publication of the mission, with its stress on his strong links with Syria. It coincides with a growing rapprochement between Washington and Damascus, which is viewed here with deep suspicion.

## Francophones finish

Ottawa — The Quebec City summit of French-speaking countries closed yesterday after three days of discussions on such matters as Third World debt, technical assistance to underdeveloped countries and the extension of French-language education facilities. The 41-nation conference was the second staged by the worldwide organization known as La Francophonie. The first was held in Paris early last year.

## Sri Lanka SA talks flare-up

Colombo — Muslims in Sri Lanka's Eastern province have attacked the offices of the Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, in Muthur after the town's assistant Government Agent, Mr Habib Mohammed, was killed on Thursday on his way to the mosque (Vijitha Yapa writes).

The Tigers are alleged to have carried out the murder, which sparked the first serious confrontation between Muslims and Tamils since the Indo-Sri Lankan accord was signed in July.

A curfew was imposed and the town is now said to be quiet. The Tiger group denies the killing.

## Kidnap hunt arrests

Santiago — Several thousand troops and policemen have concentrated their efforts to find the kidnapped Army Colonel, Carlos Carrero, in the wealthy Providencia and Nunoa districts of the Chilean capital (Laks Sagaris writes). Soldiers manned road blocks when the authorities believed they had narrowed down his whereabouts.

Thirty policemen raided the home of Luis Salas and Flor Lorca and arrested the couple, who had been under surveillance, according to a human rights group. Writs of habeas corpus were filed for four other people arrested.

## Fundamentalists on trial in Tunisia

## Bourguiba accuses 50 of plotting coup

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

In a small backstreet office in Paris sits a man who is being tried in his absence by the State Security Court in Tunisia. Mr Habib Mokni is one of the 90 members of the Islamic Tendency Movement, of whom 50 are present in court, accused of plotting against the state with the object of seizing power.

The charges carry the death penalty and the results of this trial against Islamic extremism could have disturbing far-reaching effects for President Bourguiba's regime if the presiding judge, Mr Hachemi Zamel, who is also Attorney General, hands down the maximum sentences.

There have been complaints in the French press that Mr Zamel prefers the role of inquisitor to that of judge.

This fact, says Mr Mokni, is helpful to the movement because if the judge discredits himself, then death sentences would be more difficult to impose.

Four international observers are in court daily for this important trial, which is expected to end before mid-September, because that is when the universities open and they have a long tradition of being centres of Islamic extremism.

Mr Mokni, aged 32, is one of the movement's leaders. He holds official refugee status in France, having escaped from Tunisia in 1981 where he had been sentenced in his absence to an 11-year prison sentence in the Islamic extremist trial that year. His wife, Saoussen, who is with him in Paris, was also sentenced at that trial.

The movement's charismatic leader, Mr Rachid Ghannouchi, is however present in the dock. The trial was suspended for four days after it opened at the end of August when Mr Ghannouchi's defence lawyers complained that they had been allowed access to him only the day before, despite his being under arrest since the beginning of March.

The state claims that the movement is Iranian-backed and is responsible for terrorist attacks, including the bombs placed in hotels at the beginning of August that injured several British tourists.

Mr Mokni refutes the terrorist and Iranian-backed charges, although he acknowledges that several leaders, including himself, have visited Iran. The movement, which has existed for the past

15 years, he describes as fighting for democracy and freedom in Tunisia.

Since the Islamic Tendency Movement members were arrested last March, there have been accusations of police brutality and torture. It is known that President Bourguiba wishes to eradicate religious extremism to the extent that men in Tunis are now forced to shave their beards and women forbidden to wear the veil.

But Mr Mokni is afraid that if severe sentences are handed down it will unleash a new, more radical form of extremism with violent attacks against the regime by those not as moderate as the movement's leaders, who would no longer be able to keep the balance.

## González treads tightrope over talks with Eta

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Spain's Government, by admitting publicly for the first time official contacts with Eta, in an effort to bring peace to the Basque region, has ensured that autumn begins here with a political bang.

Senor Felipe González, the Socialist Prime Minister, will however have to manoeuvre extremely skilfully, aiming to exploit possible divisions aroused by the "peace feelers" among the latterday leaders of an armed separatist organization founded more than 25 years ago, and a public opinion which could be aroused easily by the right-wing opposition against any concessions to gunmen. Nearly 500 civilians and security force members have been killed by Eta since the advent of democracy 10 years ago.

Though democratic governments of the day have regularly denied it, there have been many previous official contacts, inside Spain and

abroad, with Eta's leadership. They all failed to get positive results.

If an end to the bombings and killings could be negotiated at not too high a political price, Senor González's Socialist Party would have a trump card for the general elections scheduled for 1990.

But the Madrid Government for the present does not give the impression it is wholeheartedly for the enterprise, perhaps indeed cannot afford to let such an impression gain ground, because behind the right-wing Opposition are the bulk of the commands of Spain's security forces and the armed forces themselves, who have provided many of Eta's most conspicuous targets.

Basque politicians have welcomed the contacts. But Senor González has always to bear in mind that what, understandably, would be an immense relief to the 2.7 million inhabitants of the Basque region — an end to constant violence — might go down very poorly with 36 million

other Spaniards if they judged the political price paid to be too high.

The Government's campaign for repressing separatist violence, and a growing endorsement of tough police methods by the Madrid authorities, may arouse criticism in the papers, but all the signs are that Spanish public opinion always comes down on the side of "firmness".

The first obstacle in negotiations with Eta is the widespread belief in the Basque country that there must be a wide amnesty for former Eta members, including those suspected of blood crimes or of ordering them. The Socialist Party has its own serious reservations about this. The Government's admission has opened a Pandora's box of conflicting reactions and this "letting off of steam" may well be one of the Prime Minister's reasons for going public.

Senor José Ardanza, the moderate Basque Nationalist Chief Minister, has publicly endorsed such a trade-off by a broad amnesty to achieve

peace for the Basque region. But the Socialist Chief Minister in neighbouring Navarre has protested loudly at even the idea of any political concessions to Eta killers.

The Interior Ministry, which used two veteran police chiefs for the contact last month in Algeria with Eugenio "Amxón" Etxebarria — essentially as a go-between with other, apparently more hardline, Eta leaders in France — has cautiously begun to play down the initiative.

Almost all the political demands that Eta adopted over the years to underpin an increase in violent action raise formidable problems. The demand for self-determination overshadows the 1980 Guernica Statute of Autonomy and comes up against the armed forces' explicit commitment in the Constitution to uphold Spain's "territorial integrity".

Senor Antonio Hernández Mancha, the leader of Spain's main opposition party, the right-wing Popular Alliance, has already

warned the Prime Minister of the very "narrow limits" permissible when talking with guerrillas. He recently said he approved whatever police methods were necessary to end the violence.

The Basque Government, now a coalition of Basque Nationalists led by Senor Ardanza and Basque Socialists, has only reluctantly accepted secret contacts with Eta and has protested that it has not been kept informed about them. All the Basque political parties and the opposition forces in Madrid are now clamouring for the Government to tell them of the content of these contacts.

One of the Government's reasons now for seeking to get the contacts out of the limelight as quickly as possible is a fear that hardline Eta leaders might seek to cut dramatically across an incipient dialogue, and to frighten off waverrers in their own camp, by staging another spectacular bomb onslaught.

## Call for strict safety rules on Atlantic air routes

From Charles Bremner, New York

Canadian and American aviation authorities have called for strict rules to enforce safety on North Atlantic air routes after analysing a near-collision between two big jets.

The United States National Transportation Safety Board, in its first findings on the July 8 incident, said on Thursday that the crew of the Delta Airlines 1-111 allowed its aircraft to drift 60 miles off course and pass within 30ft of a Continental Airlines Boeing 747. Such a close call is considered "critical" by the experts, who had previously thought the planes were within 100ft of each other.

Both aircraft were bound for the US from Gatwick, carrying more than 600 passengers, when the incident occurred in air space under Canadian control. The planes were meant to be on parallel courses. The Americans and Canadians said stringent new regulations were needed to force crews to cross-check their navigation on the oceanic routes, where controllers have no independent way to monitor positions.

The Canadian Safety Board said the Delta episode was only a stark example of a fairly common occurrence. It said there were five incidents of "gross navigational errors" a month on the crowded North Atlantic routes.

The US board said the three-person Delta crew apparently mis-programmed its flight computer with the geographic co-ordinates assigned to the route, and failed to spot the error by cross-checking with the aircraft's navigation system.

It found that the Delta plane did not even carry the charts that would have permitted the crew to plot positions. Because of the distances involved, planes crossing the ocean cannot lock onto the VHF radio beams which usually mark air corridors over land and must rely on long-range systems.

The Delta crew com-

pounded its error by failing to report the deviation to controllers, who were needed to guide the plane back on course, and by trying to persuade its Continental counterparts to help hush it up. Its conversation was recorded by a nearby US Air Force jet.

According to *The New York Times* on Thursday, the Continental captain refused, saying: "I have passengers pounding on the door and crying and they saw the whole thing out the windows." Delta denied that the crew had no charts and said the three had been suspended from flying duty.

The two safety boards urged their government authorities to take immediate action to prevent such navigational errors. The Delta incident was only one of a rash involving the airline this summer. Later in July the pilot of a Delta Boeing 767 switched off both engines accidentally after take-off from Los Angeles and warned passengers to "prepare to crash" before restarting them just above the sea.

The American authorities were already urgently reviewing crew-training techniques throughout the troubled airline industry when the Northwest Airlines MD80 crashed in Detroit last month, killing 156 people. The US board says it believes pilot error was the most likely explanation for the accident.

Passenger confidence was not helped this week by an incident in which the pilot of a small airliner in New England fell out of the plane and dangled from a folding stair while trying to close the door in flight. Television news programmes yesterday replayed the co-pilot's radio messages during the incident. "I am declaring an emergency, the pilot has been sucked out of the plane," Mr Paul Boucher, the co-pilot said, unaware that his captain, Mr Henry Dempsey, was clinging on beneath the plane where he was found unharmed after landing.



## Direct hit by cruise

A Tomahawk cruise missile, left, housing in on a concrete and steel target the size of a warehouse on San Clemente Island, California.

The missile, fired from a submerged submarine off the southern California coast, made a 400-mile flight before recording a direct hit, below, in the 201st test in the cruise missile programme (AFP reports). A conventional 1,000lb warhead on the missile destroyed the target, hurling its concrete roof panels, each weighing more than three tons, into the air.

## Demjanjuk trial must be delayed

From David Bernstein Jerusalem

The trial of Mr John Demjanjuk, the alleged Nazi war criminal, will not resume for at least another fortnight after the mild heart attack suffered this week by one of the three judges trying him.

Justices Meir Levin and Dalia Dorner met yesterday to discuss the course of the trial, which was to have resumed on Monday after a three-week break, because of Justice Zvi Tal's illness. They will meet again on September 16 to review the situation.

If Justice Tal were unable to resume the Demjanjuk trial, the Supreme Court would have to nominate a replacement. In such an event, both the defence and the prosecution would be entitled to request a retrial, with the final decision on whether to accept resting with the three judges and not subject to appeal.

Meanwhile, both the defence and prosecution have said they welcome the extra time to prepare their cases. The defence, in particular, could certainly make good use of the time. It has been in some disarray since Mr Demjanjuk dismissed his chief attorney, Mr Mark O'Connor, last month and had his expert witnesses badly mauled by the prosecution before the court went into recess.

## Greece hopeful of tempting Albania out of its isolation

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece and Albania open talks at ministerial level in Athens today in a climate enhanced by the Greek Cabinet's gesture a week ago to end the technical state of war between the two countries which had existed since the Second World War.

Mr Sokrat Plaka, the Albanian Deputy Foreign Minister who arrived in Athens yesterday, will discuss bilateral and regional issues with Greek ministers and senior officials.

The Greek Socialist Government wants to encourage Albania's effort to emerge from its relative isolation. In this context Greece renounced in 1984 its territorial claim on northern Epirus.

The decision to lift the 47-year state of war came under strong criticism from the conservative opposition at home as well as organizations of north Epirot Greeks both here and in the US. They argued that this gesture should have been traded against Albanian guarantees for the rights of the minority.

The Athens Government believes that the well-being of the Greeks in Albania, estimated at 200,000, can best be safeguarded by improving relations with communist Albania rather than antagonizing it. Mr Karolos Papoulias, the Greek Foreign Minister, told a delegation of

protesters: "There is no alternative. History will vindicate me." Athens has had the tacit encouragement of its Western allies. A recurrent nightmare of Nato strategists is a Third World War scenario in which tension between Albania and Yugoslavia over minorities prompts Tirana to solicit Soviet help, bringing Nato to the aid of Yugoslavia.

US bases: The framework of negotiations for a new agreement on US bases in Greece after the present arrangements expire at the end of 1988 was discussed yesterday by Mr Papoulias and Mr Robert Keckley, US Ambassador to Greece, amid protests by 200 women and children.

## Yugoslavia hit by financial scandal

Belgrade — An agricultural complex once held up as a model of success has provoked Yugoslavia's biggest postwar financial scandal, shaking the political establishment and dealing a heavy blow to the country's economic system (Dessa Trevisan writes).

Agrocomere, an agricultural complex in the Yugoslav republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been engaged in large-scale projects for which, having no capital of its own, it paid with fictitious money, using bills of exchange worth

\$300 million (about £185 million). Some of the 63 banks which were involved may have to close as a result.

Serving an area once regarded as an example of how an underdeveloped region can quickly improve its position, the complex could not have undertaken the deals without the support of politicians at both local and federal level. Its insolvency has been concealed for some time.

The scandal, so far involving 93 people who now face prosecution, is being seen as just the tip of an iceberg of

nepotism, corruption and political ambition.

The deals are expected to contribute to galloping inflation, which the Government seems unable to control. The inflation rate has just reached 107 per cent and is expected to end the year at 150 per cent.

There has recently been a big increase in the number of strikes in Yugoslavia — 700 so far this year — and one economist suggests that up to 60 per cent of households are no longer able to afford even the bare essentials of life on the wages they earn.

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## Alfonsín party faces Peronist challenge in vital election test

From Eduardo Cué, Buenos Aires

More than 19 million Argentines vote tomorrow in crucial legislative and provincial elections that are likely to determine the direction of President Alfonsín's Government for the next two years and set the stage for the 1989 presidential campaign.

The polls — for half of the 254-member Chamber of Deputies, the governorships of the country's 22 provinces, and hundreds of local posts — are also important psychologically. Democratically elected governors have not been able to complete their four-year terms of office since 1962 because of a succession of military coups.

So the fact that the election is taking place is seen here as an important element in consolidating the country's fragile democracy.

The President said in a nationally televised speech on Thursday night: "September 6 exists because we have fought for it and obtained it together. I think that we should not forget that we have struggled to attain what we have."

Señor Alfonsín, by appearing in a broadcast two days before the vote, in effect confirmed that, although he is not up for re-election, he played a central role in the campaign. While the President did not appear at rallies during the long campaign, and refrained from endorsing any candidate or party on Thursday night, he suddenly defended his administration's record and implied that it merited a vote of confidence.

The stakes are enormous for both the Government and

Peronist opposition. Both parties concentrated their efforts on the battle for the governorship of Buenos Aires province, where Argentina's population, industrial, financial and political power are concentrated.

If the Peronists can take the province from Radical control, they will receive a boost for the 1989 presidential campaign and be in a strong position to challenge Señor Alfonsín's Government on key issues. In addition, the divided Peronists would almost certainly rally around their victorious candidate, Señor Antonio Cafiero, in the race for the presidency.

One foreign observer remarked that if Señor Cafiero could win, the direction of the 1989 election would be determined, with the reformist wing of the Peronists taking an unassailable hold on the party.

Yet despite the massive television publicity for Señor Cafiero and Señor Juan Manuel Casella, his Radical opponent, public opinion polls show the two men to be separated by only 1.5 per cent, with more than 30 per cent of the electorate claiming to be undecided just days before the vote.

In the other provinces, the Peronists appear more fragile than the Radicals, if only because they now control 12 governorships to seven for the government party, with three others held by provincial parties. The Peronists are expected to lose four provinces, while the Radicals are likely to lose at least one.

In the Chamber of De-

puties, the balance of power between Radicals and Peronists is not expected to change substantially, although the Government is likely to lose its slim two-vote absolute majority. Nevertheless, there will be many new faces in Congress, because only 29 of the 127 deputies to be chosen are standing for re-election.

The Union of the Democratic Centre party, which backs economic programmes such as privatization that would make Mrs Thatcher feel comfortable, is hoping to increase its representation in Congress from three to four seats.

Because voters who are disillusioned with the Radical Government are likely to vote for the Centre, the number of votes the party receives will be an important measurement of the electorate's discontent with mainstream politicians.

Whatever the outcome in the lower House of Congress, the Government will have to make alliances if it is to see its programmes become law.

This is especially true for constitutional reform, an issue likely to dominate the political debate during the next two years. The Radicals are intent on rewriting the constitution to allow the re-election of the President and create the post of Prime Minister to keep Señor Alfonsín in power after 1989.

As one diplomat put it: "The Radicals want Alfonsín to be able to be re-elected as President because he is the only unifying force within the party."



Riot policemen, one of them carrying a tear-gas bomb, dragging away a striker who was arrested yesterday morning during a clash between police and workers in front of the main gates of the Hyundai Heavy Industries plant at Ulsan.

## Korean police raid strike strongholds

From David Watts, Seoul

In lightning raids during the early hours yesterday, South Korean police stormed into dormitories and factory sites to arrest hundreds of striking shipyard and car workers.

They took away more than 200 men from dormitories at the Hyundai shipyard in Ulsan and from an occupation force at the Incheon factory of the Daewoo Motor Company, where 2,500 riot police raided the plant before dawn. Later in the day, another 90 workers were arrested at the shipyard.

Police believe some of the men were behind the sacking of Ulsan city hall and arson and stoning attacks in the city on Wednesday. Some of the Daewoo workers had held hostage 18 members of senior management, including the

company president, Mr Kim Chong Ung. They forced them to kneel at the front gate of the plant and demanded the release of jailed workers and medical treatment for the injured, shouting: "Kneel down and apologize."

The raids are a dramatic reversal of the Government's "hands off" policy, under which management and strikers have been largely left to sort out their own differences, with the police intervening when there was violence outside factory premises. The sight of heavy lifting equipment being driven down the main street in Ulsan and the violence of the past few days appears to have been too much for the Government.

There is also growing concern that continuing labour unrest will seriously affect the country's economic performance next year and slow growth to as little as 5 per cent in the first half of the year. A growth rate of 7 per cent a year is required to maintain sufficient expansion of the job market to accommodate each year's crop of new workers.

The opposition Reunifica-

tion Democratic Party has joined the Government in condemning the violence. The worst outburst of labour unrest in modern South Korea is the result of the release of years of a pressure-cooker atmosphere in which no unions except "yellow" in-house unions, with leaders appointed by the management, were permitted.

The result is a vast reservoir of mistrust and an almost total lack of experience in dealing with a real industrial dispute. The Government stands back and tells managements and workers to sort out their differences, but accuses anyone outside who tries to assist the process of being an illegal fomenter of union trouble.

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## Fire threat to giant California redwoods

San Francisco (AFP) — More than 8,000 people in California were evacuated from their homes as hundreds of thousands of acres of brush and timber blazed.

Soaring temperatures and steady winds fuelled fires that have been burning since Sunday across Western and Middle West states, officials said.

The worst damage was in California, where centuries-old giant redwoods are threatened and firefighters were attempting to put out 1,116 fires.

Blazes were also reported in Washington state, Wyoming and Montana. No one has been injured.

## Killer jailed

Perth (Reuters) — A Queensland man, aged 24, was sentenced to 48 years' jail for sexually assaulting and murdering an English nurse, Miss Susan Frost, in the south-west town of Albany in May. Her family lives in Bodmin, Cornwall.

## Jet box found

Bangkok (AFP) — Searchers have found the cockpit voice recorder from the Thai Airways Boeing 737 which plunged into the sea off southern Thailand on Monday, killing the 83 people on board, police said.

## In mourning

Warsaw (Reuters) — Warsaw authorities shut down all cinemas and theatres yesterday as part of a day of mourning for 13 people who were killed in rail and tram disasters in the city in two separate accidents on Thursday. More than 120 were injured.

## Condom ban

Johannesburg (Reuters) — South African censors have banned the sale of plastic key rings with condoms inside. No reason was given for the decision on the rings which were engraved with the legends "In Case Of Emergency Break Glass" and "Help Stamp Out Aids".

## Cell protest

Funchal (Reuters) — About 120 prisoners on the island of Madeira have refused to return to their cells in protest at poor conditions and overcrowding, police said.

## Day of violence fails to halt Fiji progress towards reconciliation

From Stephen Taylor Suva

Discussions intended to resolve Fiji's political impasse went ahead as scheduled yesterday and were successful enough for another session to be set for Tuesday.

But a series of violent incidents, which culminated last night in soldiers firing three shots outside the home of Dr Timoci Bavadra, the deposed Prime Minister, illustrated the underlying tensions. Dr

Bavadra said he did not think he was in personal danger, but will discuss with advisers whether to demand that the next round of talks be held in his own political stronghold of Viseisei.

In referring to yesterday's talks, Dr Bavadra refused to depart from a joint communiqué issued after his meeting with Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, his arch-political rival and predecessor as Prime Minister. Their meeting was the first since the May 14 military coup, and was

a vital — albeit tentative — step back to parliamentary rule.

Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, the Governor-General and executive ruler of Fiji since the dismantling of the coup, was chairman of yesterday's talks. There was no mention of the enormous differences that separate the two sides — such as the plan to rewrite the constitution to diminish the political voice of the ethnic Indian majority.

But during the talks a bizarre

demonstration unfolded outside the government buildings. About a dozen members of the Taukei — a movement whose motto is "Fiji for the Fijians" and which was the emotional force behind the coup that overthrew Dr Bavadra — had donned traditional tribal dress, were daubed with ashes and had started a pyre near a statue of the great chief Candra, who ceded Fiji to Queen Victoria. The demonstration went on for more than an hour in defiance of an

emergency regulation.

When the Taukei "warriors" spotted Mr Richard Naidu, press spokesman for Dr Bavadra, they chased him into the foyer of Suva's main hotel, where they beat him with clubs. Although police and soldiers were again present, no attempt was made to arrest the men. Mr Naidu was taken to hospital with a scalp wound.

Bavadra supporters set off on a reprisal raid, beating some Taukei. They went to Dr Bavadra's house in

eastern Suva, followed by about 20 soldiers, who fired three shots as they stepped on to the Bavadra property. Dr Bavadra came out on to the balcony shouting: "Why are you shooting? Why don't you shoot me?" The soldiers surrounded the house for about an hour and a half.

Whatever the differences that exist, both sides are clearly aware of the dangers to Fiji's economic stability if there is not some progress towards reconciliation.

# GUCCI

## HELL FOR LEATHER

Why Paolo Gucci was wounded in the boardroom — the bloody background to a status symbol battle

magazine

Plus

### BIRTH OF THE NATIONAL THEATRE

How Kenneth Tynan and Laurence Olivier together created a British institution

review



# THE SUNDAY TIMES

SUNDAY ISN'T SUNDAY WITHOUT IT

سكرايتن الاصل



## Renewed tanker war in the Gulf

## Iraqis outflanked by Iran's motorlaunch raiders

From Robert Fisk, Dubai

Given the calculated nature of their retaliation to Iraq's latest attacks on shipping in the Gulf, the Iraqis appear to be winning Round 1 of the renewed tanker war.

From the small islands which they control — most of them conveniently situated beside the Gulf's principal sea-lanes — Iranian Revolutionary Guards have been able to assault unarmed merchant ships with impunity. Despite the increasing naval power of the Americans, Iranian attacks have continued at the rate of at least two a night, without so much as a suggestion that a single Iranian has been hurt in the process.

Thus — and this, of course, is an attractive view in Tehran — Iraq's new offensive has led inexorably to a tactical Iranian victory, to the further humiliation of the Americans, and the growing concern of Iraq's Arab allies in the Gulf at the latest development in the war.

The arrival of the US battleship *Missouri* in the Gulf of Oman — the sister ship of the New Jersey, that venerable but empty symbol of American power which so publicly shelled the valleys and forests above Beirut in 1984

— has, it seems, no more cowed the Iraqis than did the New Jersey in Lebanon.

Four days ago the Kuwaitis fired a ground-to-air missile at a low-flying cloud, because humidity had given the vapour the image of an approaching jet aircraft on their radar screens.

More than two weeks earlier, an American fighter over the Gulf fired two rockets at an Iranian "plane" which is now believed to have been nothing more threatening than a freak heat band in the atmosphere.

This week Iranian Revolutionary Guards attacked a tanker party loaded with Iranian oil. One of the first mines laid in the Gulf last month — presumably by Iran — exploded against another tanker carrying Iranian crude.

Few Arab leaders believe that this pattern of events can continue for much longer without real tragedy. Nor is there any sign that Iraq and Iran are in a mood for restraint. If Iraq is indeed being given intelligence assistance by the Americans for its latest offensive — as the Iraqis suspect and as reports in Washington now say — then President Saddam Hussein is going to be in no mood to harness his bomber squadrons which are

now marauding 500 miles down the Gulf.

Iraq, whose military strength at sea lies in flexibility rather than firepower, is fighting a cheap offensive. The Japanese-made motor launches used by the



King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, right, said to have considered cutting oil prices to undermine Ayatollah Khomeini, left.

Revolutionary Guards to spray gunfire at tankers and other merchant ships have been bought by the dozen over the last six months and several European companies have now been asked to redesign the stern of these vessels.

Ostensibly modernized to ensure that the Iranian "fishermen" who supposedly use them can haul in their catch more easily by widening the stern and removing the guard rails, the vessels are now

capable of sowing mines in large numbers and at short notice in any part of the Gulf. The old minelaying wooden dhow, which has so far performed this cumbersome task, is probably a thing of the past.

Perhaps the best military intelligence on Iran now comes from the Chinese who are one of the country's principal arms suppliers. Their own military technicians are reporting that the Iraqis have built a factory near the port of Bandar Abbas to produce home-made mines to supplement the upgraded but very old weapons — originally manufactured in Tsarist Russia — which have hitherto been used in the Gulf. Furthermore, the Chinese say, the Iraqis have sought acoustic equipment in the European market that can be fitted into these mines. They will then lie harmlessly on the seabed and rise only when attracted by the sound of a ship's engine propellers or prop-wash.

It is into such projects — rather than any real hopes of remodelling the UN Security Council's ceasefire resolution to its own designs — that much Iranian energy is now being expended. It is easy to expand the war — with new mines, new raiding tactics and, for the Iraqis, with modernized systems of mid-air refuelling for long-range air strikes. It is not really difficult for the naval forces in

the Gulf to produce counter-measures: a new convoy strategy for US-flagged Kuwaiti ships, extra sonar equipment for American helicopters, and the arrival of even more sophisticated equipment on board British minesweepers.

But for the Gulf belligerents, for the other regional powers and for the Western nations fast being sucked into the vortex of the conflict, it now seems nigh on impossible to reduce the temperature of the war.

Thus the Saudis, despairing of the United Nations, were at one point, it is said, considering the most drastic of all measures: a sudden and massive reduction in the price of oil that would break the Opec quotas and starve Iran of the cash it needs to continue the war. The idea seemed to have some merit in the Saudi royal family after the Iraqis attacked their embassy in Tehran following the Mecca killings on July 31, fatally wounding one of their diplomats and beating up a member of the ambassador's family.

The Saudis were also particularly incensed by the systematic robbery of their Tehran embassy, for it is a fact that the Iraqis who entered the compound carefully picked the locks of all the embassy safes, taking \$40,000 (£24,000)

in cash alone from the ambassador's personal vault.

Diplomats in Tehran who visited the wreckage of the Saudi embassy were astounded by the professional way in which the building had been looted: there were real locksmiths among the "spontaneous" demonstrators.

But if the threat of oil price cuts is a fearsome weapon in the hands of the Saudis, it is also inevitably self-defeating. Iraq, like Iran, relies on its oil exports to finance the war and, with scarcely any foreign currency reserve, Baghdad now owes an estimated \$60 billion in foreign debts. Kuwait, one of Iraq's principal financial supporters, would see the \$17 million in profits, which it has obtained from additional export of oil since the US flagging of its tankers, disappear overnight.

So the Arabs remain as vulnerable financially as they often believe themselves to be militarily. Hence, ultimately, they too will have to depend on the United Nations for a settlement of the war, just as will the Americans and the Iraqis themselves.

Senior Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary-General, will have to resist the deadlines of the Americans and the delaying tactics of the Iraqis.

## Dirty war in Colombia

## Actress exits in a hurry after 'death squads' announce their hit list

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

Vicky Hernández, a well-known Colombian actress, left the country secretly and in a hurry four days ago. Much more sedately and publicly, President Barco will do the same today, the difference being that he will be back in two weeks while her stay abroad is likely to be a long one.

A shocking spiral of political violence, from which the actress fled in fear of her life, has brought considerable pressure, resisted by Señor Barco, for the cancellation of his planned state visit to China, South Korea and the Philippines to promote trans-Pacific trade.

What is being increasingly likened to an Argentine-style *guerra sucia* ("dirty war") reached new depths a week ago when one of the nation's most eminent human rights activists, Dr Hector Abad Gómez, was assassinated in Medellín.

Chillingly, a few hours later, an anonymous duplicated letter was distributed to the media, listing 24 "future targets", including Senator Hernández, another popular actor, a former Foreign Minister, a former Attorney-General, journalists, trade union leaders, intellectuals and two retired generals. Their politics ranged from left to centre and most were outspoken defenders of human rights.

Señorita Hernández is a supporter of the Unión Patriótica (UP), a fledgling socialist movement whose leader, Señor Jaime Pardo Leal, was also on the death list.

The UP emerged three years ago from a series of ceasefire pacts forged by the previous Government with the biggest subversive group, the *Marcos* — the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc). Since then 430 UP activists have been assassinated without a single arrest. Señor Pardo has repeatedly charged that the violence is being orchestrated by paramilitary groups linked to the armed forces in an attempt to remove the UP from the political scene.

That the "dirty war" has taken a new and alarming turn was brought home to many Colombians by the murder of Dr Abad, a national figure and a member of President Barco's Liberal Party, other non-UP political killings, and the inclusion of well-known Liberals and one independent Conservative on the death list, indicating that the sights of the gunmen are set indiscriminately on moderates as well as left-wingers.



President Barco: tour to promote trans-Pacific trade.

Yet analogies with Argentina are suspect. Although the military remains a powerful constituency, few believe the killing is being co-ordinated by the Defence Minister, General Rafael Samudio, or that there is a danger of a takeover by the armed forces. Whether General Samudio is doing all he could or should to control maverick elements in the military, particularly at provincial level, is another matter.

It is no secret that the armed forces fiercely oppose the peace process begun under the last government and pursued more warily by Señor Barco. The Farc and the military have regularly exchanged charges of ceasefire violations.

Although the UP insists it is a completely separate entity from the Farc, it is clearly identified in the public mind with subversive groups. As a result its members seem to have become targets not only of sectors of the military but also wealthy landowners bitter over having to pay extortion to Farc over many years.

Yet another factor is undoubtedly Colombia's first open mayoral election, scheduled for next year. The UP is expected to win many mayoral races in rural Colombia, where the Liberals and Conservatives have historically had a monopoly of local power.

As President Barco's chief adviser on the peace process, Señor Carlos Ossa Escobar, sadly admits: "There are sectors who see the UP as a threat to the system and also see a symbiosis between the UP and the Farc."



Ambulance taking Signor Manerodino, the captain of the Italian container ship Jolly Rubino, to a hospital emergency ward in Dubai. Two people were killed and the captain and a member of his crew were injured when a speedboat manned by four men, believed to be Iranian Revolutionary Guards, fired six rockets which hit the ship's bridge.

## UN chief likely to insist on ceasefire

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The United Nations Security Council met behind closed doors yesterday to lay out formally the conditions for a peace mission by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary-General, to the Gulf next week. The mission was being seen as a final diplomatic effort to persuade Iran to accept a truce with Iraq before facing punitive sanctions.

The terms, which have already been drafted by the five permanent members of the council, were expected to include a pledge from the two sides that they would observe scrupulously a total ceasefire on land and sea during the mission and that they would not attempt to renegotiate Resolution 598, which contains the framework for a comprehensive settlement between Iran and Iraq.

Officials were insisting that unless the conditions were met the visit would only serve Iranian propaganda and would therefore not take place. The Secretary-

General was expected to summon the Iranian and Iraqi representatives as soon as the council rubberstamped the terms, but it was not clear how quickly the responses would be delivered.

The five members — Britain, France, China, the United States and the Soviet Union — decided to exploit the opportunity created by Iran's invitation to the Secretary-General by attempting to force a respite in the attacks on Gulf shipping and allowing Iraq, which resumed the tanker war, a graceful retreat from its avowed determination to deplete Iranian oil reserves.

At the same time, the prohibition against renegotiating the text to suit Iranian interests was likely to bring to an end what has become a lengthy series of cryptic responses to the ceasefire demand. Iran was now faced with the uncomfortable prospect of accepting a measure politically untenable or losing the tem-

porary protection from the Soviet Union and China from a determined sanctions drive.

Diplomats said that the fact that Moscow and Peking had agreed to the conditions to be attached to the Secretary-General's mission was testimony to their growing realization that Iran's strategy to procrastinate indefinitely on the ceasefire call had become too apparent, and that they could no longer shield Tehran from censure.

In addition, the attacks on Gulf shipping was once again intensifying anti-Iranian sentiment in the Arab world, which Moscow must balance with its desire to exert enough influence on Iran to extract peace concessions. If so, the Soviet Union would succeed in a policy that has eluded everyone else and would become the new arbiter of peace in the Gulf region.

## Turks told by Demirel to vote for democracy

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

Turkey votes tomorrow after an invective-laden campaign in a referendum to decide whether key former political figures should be allowed back into public life.

Mr Süleyman Demirel, the banned conservative leader, this week urged the nation to "remove a blemish from the country's democracy" and vote for the change.

He said that the Constitution, established after the 1980 military coup, was dictated following the overthrow of a properly elected government and failed to meet the needs of a democratic society.

Mr Demirel, the Prime Minister at the time of the coup, and other former leaders, such as Mr Bülent Ecevit, a Social Democrat Prime Minister, were banned by the military from politics until 1992. But under growing opposition pressure Mr Turgut Özal, the Motherland Party Prime Minister, amended the Constitution to allow the referendum — but has campaigned vociferously against both politicians.

Mr Demirel and the True Path Party he supports have angrily countered Mr Özal's argument that a "yes" vote would drag the country back to the chaos and terrorism of the pre-coup years, and have charged that Mr Özal was in power only because former leaders were banned, their parties disbanded, and their successors not allowed to participate in the 1983 elections. Opinion polls are suggesting that, contrary to the Prime Minister's wishes, the country wants to see Mr Demirel and Mr Ecevit back in the fray of Turkish politics.

## Challenge to Honecker on torture demanded

From John England, Bonn

West German human rights campaigners yesterday called on the Bonn Government to challenge Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, during his visit to West Germany next week over his country's 5,000 political prisoners, who were being "mentally and physically tortured".

Two former prisoners in East Germany also spoke at a press conference here, given by the German chapter of the International Society for Human Rights, of being beaten by prison officers.

The society said it had collected more than 2,000 petitions, mostly calling for relaxations on East-West fam-

ily meetings and cancellations of orders preventing many West Germans from travelling to the East.

About 4,500 petitions from West Germans would be handed to the East German diplomatic mission in Bonn, but those from East Germany would be withheld until the mission promised that the petitioners would not suffer.

● *Dinghy escape:* Two East German men, aged 21 and 22, yesterday escaped to the West by rowing a rubber dinghy across the Baltic. At least nine East Germans fled to West Germany in the past two weeks.

## Burundi bars door to Bagaza

By Michael Dwyer

Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, the President of the Central African state of Burundi who was overthrown while attending the Francophone summit meeting in Quebec, yesterday arrived in the neighbouring state of Kenya, after being denied permission to land in the Burundian capital of Bujumbura.

Colonel Bagaza, who landed at Nairobi on a scheduled Air France flight from Paris, had earlier declined to make any statement about his overthrow.

The colonel, aged 41, who had maintained close ties with Moscow during his 11-year rule over one of Africa's most impoverished countries, is known to have become in-

creasingly anxious about the loyalty of his 5,000-strong Army in recent months.

Despite presiding over a period of relative political stability, Colonel Bagaza's rule had been marred during the past year by repression of religious groups, particularly the Roman Catholic Church.

Over the past three years Colonel Bagaza has expelled most foreign missionaries, jailed many local priests and denounced the Church for attempting to undermine his authority.

All communications with the Burundian capital were severed after a group of renegade soldiers led by Major Pierre Buyoya seized power, suspended the Constitution and established a Committee

for National Salvation to take over the government.

Burundi state radio, which had earlier announced that the President had been relieved of his duties as head of the state, party and Army, continued to broadcast martial music yesterday.

Although the new military junta has imposed a dusk to dawn curfew and recalled all military personnel from leave, the coup is believed to have met with no resistance, and the safety of the 110 British residents in Bujumbura does not appear to be in jeopardy.

Colonel Bagaza joins a long list of African leaders deposed while making foreign visits, notably Ghana's Dr Nkrumah in 1966, Uganda's Dr Obote in 1971, and Sudan's General Nimeiry in 1985.

## Ultra-right racists gain ground in South Africa

From Nicholas Beeston, Johannesburg

When it comes to expounding on his vision of the brave new South Africa, Professor Johannes Schabert, the leader of the country's most right-wing movement, is not a man to mince words. Out go the blacks, the Coloureds (mixed race) and the Indians, and with them South Africa's apartheid laws, to be replaced by a racially pure white state, which will be at the vanguard of a global struggle to stop "non-white races who are destroying this planet".

In this country's increasingly polarized political world, it came as little surprise this year when Professor Schabert unveiled his hitherto underground movement, the *Blanke Bevrydingsbeweging* (the White Liberation Movement).

"We felt that the existing movements of the right did not have the right principles," he told *The Times* this week.

"We are growing very fast, in fact our administrative staff cannot cope with all the applications."

In essence, the movement's ideology is to restructure South Africa totally to "correct" the racial and economic policies, which he believes will lead to annihilation of the white man in Africa if left unchecked. Professor Schabert would "repatriate" blacks to their so-called tribal homelands, send Coloureds to trust areas and give Indians the choice of joining either one.

Quite what has triggered Professor Schabert's personal enthusiasm for a project which would cause no little hardship to his fellow man is not clear. But the former head of the department of biochemistry at the Rand Afrikaans University is adamant that this is the only workable option left, and claims that his solution has



Professor Schabert seeks wholesale repatriation, struck a chord in every layer of white society.

Unlike his right-wing counterparts in the *Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging*, the *Herstigte Nasionale Party* and the official opposition Conservative Party, Professor Schabert and his followers are self-avowed racists who want "total separation" of the races,

even if it means sacrificing cheap black labour.

"We want to create a First World country not dependent on black labour, so industries would have to mechanize or close down," he explained. "It would mean closing down some mines, but this is the richest country in the world and would still provide a high standard of living for whites."

The most sinister aspect of his philosophy is the repatriation programme, which he hinted would help to compensate for the burgeoning black population, which would face certain starvation and disease in the rural slums of the homelands. "We have helped their (blacks) development enough and they have benefited by increasing their numbers," he said. "They have their own territories, they must go there and nature will look after their numbers."

Once that phase of the operation is over, Professor

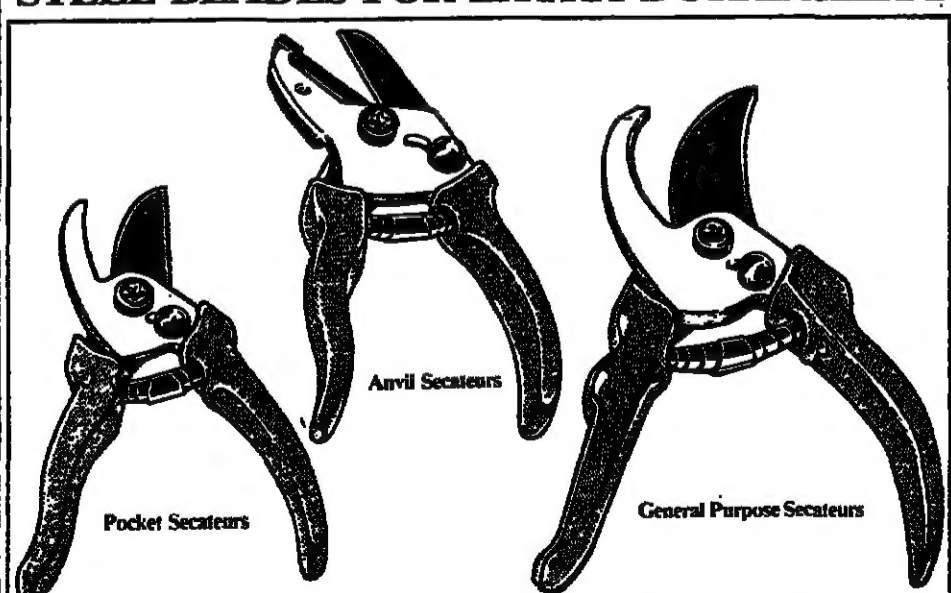
Schabert would move on to the "secondary problem" of dealing with the minority communities of Jews, Lebanese, Greeks and Portuguese.

Although his views are probably regarded sympathetically by only a small minority of whites in South Africa (he refused to divulge his membership figures), the public in general regards the White Liberation Movement at worst as a sad reflection of its country and at best as an offensive nuisance.

But the rise of such groups, and the recent memorial service for Rudolf Hess attended by up to 100 mourners in Pretoria, has sent shivers through some minorities. The country's underground Jewish Defence Organization has reportedly recruited 400 members in the past three weeks.

Professor Schabert said he had received letters of support from England, America and Australia.

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## SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

### Vauxhall's new model

"The whole world is looking at the GM Vauxhall Conference," said Dutch football writer Jan Herman de Bruijn, fresh from watching Dagenham v Maidstone United. "It's the biggest thing in Europe this season." The Conference, one step below the Fourth Division, is running an offside experiment: the offside rule will not apply at corners, goal kicks or free kicks. De Bruijn has been monitoring the experiment for a magazine produced for Dutchmen interested in British football — it has a circulation of 150,000, believe it or not. He and a photographer asked Dagenham if they could watch one match from the top of the floodlight pylons but were persuaded that the roof of the stands was a good enough vantage point. The experiment that has so inspired de Bruijn has been sanctioned by FIFA, the international football organization, and our own Football Association. Managers in the GM Vauxhall Conference are less keen on the idea: it takes footballers only ten minutes to spot where a rule can be exploited. The great tactical advance from the experiment is that at free kicks, all the big blokes come out from defence and stand in front of the goalkeeper.

### Try anything

It's nice to know that Hertfordshire provides the world with the renaissance men of sport. Not content with acting as a home for the mighty Tewin irregulars, the county has also given us Mick Luckhurst, from Gedburth. Luckhurst is a place kicker for the Atlanta Falcons American football team, and now he has become a professional golfer as well. By whacking a ball 258 yards he won a long driving competition organized by the National Football League — and with it a Cadillac. But the United States Golf Association decided that if he accepted the prize he must relinquish his amateur status. He promptly turned pro without a qualm. "It didn't bother me," said Luckhurst, cool dude that he is. "I only play golf a few times a year, so I felt it was a better option than having to forfeit the prize."

● Britain's two most rapidly expanding industries? Not surprisingly, banking and new technology. And challenging on the rails? Sport and leisure.

### Black mark

The reserve umpire at today's NatWest final at Lord's will be Keith Lyons, the former Glamorgan player. The last time he was at Lord's for a big final was as a player, for the Gillette final between Glamorgan and Middlesex. While outside the Grace Gates, trying to give away some tickets, as he later explained it, he was arrested and taken to the police station for questioning. After some difficulty, he eventually persuaded the police to let him go and take part in the match. The final police verdict was, in fact, "not foul".

### Rising star

What is Ian Botham's most delightful experience ever? As you would expect, just back from Barbados as I am, I have the answer. It was going up in a balloon near Bristol the other week. "The most breath-taking experience I have had in all my life," Our Boy said afterwards. "The sheer exhilaration of floating without power from a jet engine should not be missed by anybody if given the opportunity."

### Hand it to him

More on the fascinating topic of people named after Derby winners. T.E.B. Clarke writes to tell me that the late Gilbert Harding only narrowly escaped being Orby Harding after being born on Derby Day 1907, and his father having had a successful punt thereon. But his mother put her foot down and carried the day. Mr Clarke writes: "At a dinner party many years later, Gilbert was introduced to a man of about his own age with a Christian name of Orby. Guessing that Orby's mother had been less masterful than his own, he brought the conversation around to palmistry and made the preposterous claim that he could tell the date of anyone's birth from the lines on his hand. Challenged to prove it, he studied Orby's palm and named the date precisely. No one who was there could get over the wonder of it."



BARRY FANTONI

When Cardinal Basil Hume states that the Roman Catholic Church is committed to church unity, it may mean a lot or a little. He has said it many times. He said it on Thursday to 350 of Britain's top church leaders, and they responded as if they had all just won the pools.

He was putting in position the final missing piece of an ecumenical jigsaw, the search for which has vexed church leaders for a generation. The ecumenical process had reached an impasse. All the build-up of goodwill was beginning to soak away. Yet another carefully contrived project to bring all the British churches together could have been going the way of previous wasted efforts — until the cardinal spoke.

The delegates were meeting at Swanwick in Derbyshire to review and complete a three-year operation, looking for something to replace the British Council of Churches, which had lost its path, looking for a way to involve the ordinary church member as never before, and looking above all for a way of getting the Roman Catholic Church to overcome its ecumenical shyness. The BCC had become too obviously an Anglican, Protestant, Free church grouping, and needed the impetus of Roman Catholic full membership to bring it new life. But it would not join.

The "hidden agenda" of the Swanwick meeting, therefore, was whether the Catholics would come aboard this time or not. On Thursday afternoon Cardinal Hume called the Catholic delegates together and told them he was ready to declare a full commitment, to make and announce a new official policy for the church. The delegation was solidly behind him, and his announcement was duly made. It electrified the conference, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr

## An historic day for church unity

by Clifford Longley

Robert Runcie, immediately hailed it as an historic moment.

By yesterday, as the conference drew to its close, this was becoming the settled judgement of everyone. It seemed a natural development, therefore, when it was announced yesterday that all members of the staff of the British Council of Churches had agreed that their contracts would expire simultaneously in 1990, when the council will be replaced by something rather clumsily labelled an "ecumenical instrument".

The cardinal's key statement was that the Roman Catholic Church was now ready to move "quite deliberately from a situation of co-operation to one of commitment". They should be willing to pray, work and act together, both nationally and locally, for evangelization and mission. And this should be official policy, at every level, with the eventual aim of "full communion, communion which is both visible and organic".

Significantly, the Clerk to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rev James Weatherhead, was quick to add his church's welcome and endorsement — the Kirk is known for its ecumenical wariness where the

Catholic Church is concerned. Yesterday the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Edinburgh and St Andrews, Mgr Keith O'Brien, announced Scottish Catholic endorsement: the Scots are technically under separate jurisdiction.

The details of the compact on which the meeting set its seal yesterday have yet to be fully worked out. But there will be a top layer of inter-church co-operation through regular meetings of all national church leaders. There will be local networks for parallel local co-operation. There will be regular meetings of an assembly drawn from all the churches. There will be open lines of communication between church governing bodies, which will commit themselves to consult each other before acting.

In practice this will mean that the question "What does the Roman Catholic Church have to say on this?" will become a routine stage in the business of the General Synod of the Church of England; "What does the Methodist Church have to say?" a routine question for the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference; and so on. In practice, an issue of concern to all the churches will go before the next church leaders' meeting, so

that what is said is said in the name of all. It means that if the Archbishop of Canterbury goes to meet the Prime Minister on an issue, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, and leaders of other churches, will go with him.

It also means that the churches must get to grips as never before with their differences, still many and deep. Cardinal Hume said that out: "A Roman Catholic contribution will follow from a Roman Catholic concern about the content of our faith, about ecclesiology, about morality, the sacraments — questions which I believe, as a matter of urgency, we must explore together. Mission is of the essence of the life of the church, but so is the exploration of the mystery of God."

In return for the benefits of Roman Catholic vitality in the ecumenical process, therefore, the cardinal was telling them that his church will insist on being listened to and taken seriously. This last point throws much light on the ecumenical hidden agenda in Britain in the last few years. The Roman Catholic Church has felt that earlier offers of co-operation, such as membership of the British Council of Churches, would be likely to suffocate the distinctiveness of its message with the cotton wool of goodwill.

The cardinal held back, therefore, until he was persuaded by the tone of the Swanwick meeting that the other churches were prepared for a much closer, but much more risky and potentially painful, relationship.

They do indeed seem to be ready, but not necessarily fully prepared for all that it could entail. The immediate question, after Swanwick, will be whether the other churches are as fully committed as the Roman Catholic Church now is — an ironic overnight reversal of roles.

Richard Owen on an upsurge of anxiety over German reunification

## Overtones of fatherland

Bonn Is there a German Question? In one sense, the question was settled after the defeat of the Third Reich, and with every passing year the division of Germany appears more permanent. Erich Honecker's imminent visit to West Germany — he arrives in Bonn on Monday — underlines this. The five-day trip, the first by an East German leader, arouses fears elsewhere in Europe (perhaps more in France than in Britain) that the two Germanies are getting uncomfortably close.

Honecker's aim is to prove the reverse: that the 17 million people of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) form a self-contained communist state with a legitimacy of its own which seeks to co-operate rather than unite with the 61 million prosperous Germans on "the other side".

To some extent, the facts bear Honecker out. In the new climate of the Gorbachov era, East Germany has opened a few chinks in the Wall. East German pensioners can already visit the West, but more and more younger East Germans are also being allowed out "for urgent family reasons", a phrase which can be flexibly defined when the GDR chooses. The calculation is that the vast majority will go back to the East, and the vast majority do. Of the half a million or so who have visited the West so far this year, fewer than 1,500 stayed behind.

A similar calculation underlies Honecker's tolerance of the widespread East German practice of watching West German television. It broadcasts *Dynasty* into East German living rooms, but it also highlights the ills of Western society. Those East Germans who get to the West are overwhelmed by the abundance, but many also find they cannot cope with responsibility and initiative, not to mention having to compete for scarce jobs. Many head back to the predictabilities of "cradle to grave" socialism.

In any case, rapprochement between the two German states depends on the ups and downs of the superpower relationship. At the moment, it depends on the leeway Moscow is prepared to allow Honecker. Three years ago, he was forced to cancel his trip to Bonn because of the row over Nato missile deployments in West Germany. Three years later, an INF deal is on the cards, and



Chancellor Helmut Kohl has helpfully removed the final hurdle by agreeing to the scrapping of Pershing 1A missiles.

And yet both Moscow and Washington remain haunted by the thought that Germans of East and West might eventually — not during the Honecker visit, or even immediately after it, but eventually — find they have more in common with each other than with their respective alliance partners. German reunification is still enshrined in the West German constitution. The growing view on both sides of the Wall is that there is more to the great German past than the shameful but relatively short Third Reich.

For Moscow, all this stirs deep-seated fears of a dominant Germany once again able to threaten Russia. For Washington, the danger is that West Germany, lured by the siren voice of German nationalism, will drift away from

Nato and the EEC towards a woolly neutralism enabling it to link arms with East Germany. France fears this too — hence the writer Francois Mauriac's oft repeated remark that he "liked Germany so much he was glad there were two of them".

Officials in Bonn provide reassuring antidotes to this kind of nervous speculation. Kohl this week dismissed talk of a "neutral central Europe" (*Mittleuropa*) as an illusion. West Germany is firmly committed to Nato and the EEC, and, indeed, increasingly dominates the Community by virtue of its industrial and financial strength, just as its frontline status makes it the focus of Nato's strategy in Europe.

But it is this very strength, this very physical role, which causes anxiety. When the mood in Bonn fluctuates the rest of the West watches closely, and of late the mood has been one of impatience

and frustration with the EEC. From Bonn's point of view the Community has become bogged down in technical wrangling. Referrals in Brussels of significant policy always seem to hit German farmers hardest. Lurking not far behind such attitudes is some resentment over the way in which West Germany cannot flex its economic or political muscles without instantly being accused of arrogance and nationalism.

Gunter Gaus, Bonn's first representative in East Berlin after the 1972 agreement between the two states, repeatedly reminds West Germans that although East Germans share the same culture, the difference between the two systems is irreducible. So it is: East Germany has some private enterprise, private villas, pop music, even television, but it remains a police state under Soviet control. Most West Germans do not need reminding; they know that those "brothers from the East" who try to escape are shot, and Honecker's current order forbidding border killings is probably just for the duration.

None the less, emotional ties of language, geography and history cannot be underestimated, as the world will witness next week when Honecker visits his birthplace in the Saarland, which he has not seen since he fled it in Nazi times. A number of leading West Germans, including Hans Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, and Hanselore Kohl, the Chancellor's wife, were brought up in what is now East Germany.

The generation which at present has power on both sides of the divide, in other words, is the last to have known a united Germany. The real German Question, perhaps, is whether the impulse towards rapprochement will be stronger or weaker when the hands of men and women with no memories of Cold-war Germany.

Most West Germans under 40 have never seen Leipzig or Dresden: most of their counterparts in the East have never seen Hamburg or Cologne. Whatever the superpowers' wishes, the answer could depend on whether such younger Germans come to regard the vestiges of their country as natural and unchallengeable or — precisely because its origins are to them lost in the mists of time — as absurd and unnecessary.

Europe is too wealthy, and ought to have too much self-respect to remain for ever a military protectorate of the United States. I cannot understand those on the left who continue to rely on the United States to defend their liberty but who propose to close American military bases in Britain.

We and the Liberals are the only grouping in British politics which takes Europe seriously. If we value our independence we have to keep our own nuclear deterrent. If we value the independence of Western Europe we must be prepared to contribute our own deterrent to a minimum European deterrent, not as a replacement of the American, but as an insurance policy. We Social Democrats have already shown that we are willing to go down a road which, I feel sure, the US budget deficit will eventually force us to travel.

Two questions need to be answered. Could a Social Democratic party reasonably and effectively espouse the approaches which I have outlined? And, if so, are they likely to be the kind of approaches ground out by the machinery of a merged party?

Robert Skidelsky

The author is Professor of International Studies at Warwick University. This article is based on a speech given to this week's SDP conference.

Robert Kilroy-Silk

## Save us from the judges

Lord Scarman is preparing to have yet another go at introducing a Bill of Rights into Parliament so as to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. He should save his time and his energy. It will not be passed, nor should it be. There are overwhelming reasons of principle why such a constitutional change should be rejected, not the least of them that it would be inimical to our political system and retard social progress.

For the moment, however, let us lay aside principle and concentrate on the practical reasons why his lordship will be better employed on other activities this autumn. This is, quite simply, that a Bill of Rights would not have the effect that he so charmingly but naively suggests. It would not, that is to say, actually protect the "fundamental rights and freedoms" that he champions. No such document ever has, not the constitution of the United States nor even the most comprehensive of them all, the Soviet constitution. The adventure will end in tears.

The reasons are obvious. The first is that the rights and freedoms that he seeks to entrench will still be at the disposal of Parliament. What it makes it can also destroy. More important is that they would be at the mercy of the ignorance, the prejudices, the whims and the fancies of judges. It is they who have been selected by Lord Scarman as the guardians of our rights, the protectors of our liberties. It is on their intellectual ability and integrity, their political wisdom and plain common sense, that our freedoms would depend. It is not a happy thought. Our judges do not have a particularly good record in this area, at least not recently.

Few better examples of the shortcomings of the judges and of the danger of entrusting our individual rights to them can be provided than that of the Wright case. When put to the test these putative guardian angels of the people placed the needs of the government and the security services before those of the freedom of the press and of information.

Indeed Lord Scarman himself rushed into the letter columns of *The Times* after the interim injunction had been granted — but before the reasons for it had been published — to assert that their lordships had "overlooked" the "more fundamental law providing the right of the public to access to information already in the public domain and the public right of free speech..." and that we therefore needed a Bill of Rights "to educate all of us as to our true priorities in the law".

Yet the people who "overlook" "fundamental" laws and rights, and who need educating in legal priorities, are precisely the ones that he would set up as the final guarantors of our liberties. Few would share his faith in them, not now, if ever. Moreover, his

presumption that his former judicial colleagues had somehow overlooked, forgotten or just ignored the fundamental laws was not correct. Had he waited for the judgment he would have seen that they had fully taken them into account, but only to place a lower order of importance on them than that accorded by Lord Scarman and most of the rest of us. Indeed, both the majority and the minority of the court insisted that their decision was in conformity with the European Convention.

And that, of course, is part of the problem with a Bill of Rights, or anything else that is left to the interpretation of the judiciary. Judges don't always get it right. They often have different values, never mind priorities, than the rest of us. They live in another world, or seem to. Not the most carefully crafted constitution, nor the finest words of a Bill of Rights, will come to anything when it comes to their enforcement. Those who have to make a reality of the principles have, as *The Times* put it, attitudes "more easily comprehended by Mr Charles Dickens".

Nor is it just a matter of words and their meaning. Judges also have to make political decisions. No freedom is absolute. It cannot be. Lord Scarman should know this. He must realize that any attempt to put all rights and freedoms on a level, to assert that they are equal, to entrench them, to give the impression that they are inalienable and inviolate, is doomed to disappointment. One freedom — or right — at a given time has to be balanced against another. Their lordships know this. Lord Brandon was at pains to point out that he supported "the general principle of freedom of expression of the press". So did Lord Templeman.

But they also pointed out, as Lord Scarman seems to have forgotten, that even his wonderful European Convention allows exceptions. It particularly provides that the presumption in favour of the freedom of the individual as well as of the press can be overridden by the need to protect national security. The question then becomes a simple one. Lord Templeman enunciates it: "The question was whether the interference with freedom of expression... was necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security..."

He, and a majority of the court, thought that it was. Whether we agree with the decision does not matter in this context. What matters is that if Lord Scarman was to have his way we should be compelled to place all of our hard won rights in the hands of men with strange logic, peculiar attitudes and funny priorities. Give me Parliament any time. At least we can get rid of the latter.

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The author was a Mercyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

Peter Brimelow

## Wasps stung by busy bees

New York "Those Asian-American Whiz Kids," blared the back-to-school issue of *Time*, displaying on its cover a group of oriental children festooned with basketballs, spiral-bound notebooks and other reassuring symbols of American student life. The weekly news magazine here plays an important role in shaping what Americans think of themselves, but on this issue *Time's* fidelity to prevailing taboos left it little to say.

The impact of the current wave of immigrants from Asia — by which is meant China, India, Korea and to a lesser extent Japan — has become a hot topic of middle-class conversation here. The immediate reason: it has suddenly and savagely intensified competition to get into America's 50 or so top colleges.

Asians constitute only 2 per cent of the population, but this autumn they make up 14 per cent of the first-year students at Harvard, 20 per cent at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and 25 per cent at the Berkeley campus of the University of California. In particular disciplines, the proportions are even more extraordinary. Berkeley's engineering students are 40 per cent Asian.

This phenomenon is a direct result of the Immigration Act of 1965. At that time the US, like other English-speaking countries, began to allow the mass immigration of non-Europeans. Most of these have gone to the bottom of the social ladder, but Asians have shot to the top. Last year, the first-ranked student at the US Air Force Academy, America's Cranwell, was a Vietnamese refugee who got here when he was nine.

For liberal intellectuals, the arrival of the Asians is disturbing. A successful non-white group makes it difficult to argue that the continued underperformance of blacks in American society is due solely to racial discrimination, which government intervention is required to correct. And it also raises the possibility, supported by IQ tests, that the Asians' prowess is due to racial differences in inherited intelligence.

Asians also add a new twist to the tortuous issue of racial quotas. These were explicitly banned in America by the 1964 Civil Rights Act. But federal judges and

bureaucrats allow — and indeed require — quotas when they benefit groups like blacks and "Hispanics" who seem unable otherwise to succeed in proportion to their numbers.

It is perfectly clear that many colleges have informally set limits on their intake of Asians. This makes liberals uneasy, particularly Jewish liberals who remember that they were subject to identical restrictions until well after the last war. On the other hand, there is the real possibility that without such safeguards their own children might not gain admission.

The compromise that liberal opinion appears to be groping towards, implicitly supported by *Time*, is that quotas are all right as long as they keep people in — not when they keep people out. This, of course, is logically absurd. What one group wins, another loses. In this case, the losers are the American whites, squeezed from both sides.

Perhaps the ultimate losers are the Wasps, white Anglo-Saxon Protestants, the original American stock. At Harvard, for example, it is probably reasonable to assume that another 15 to 20 per cent of first-year students will be Jewish, and perhaps 15 per cent blacks, Hispanics, American Indians and other members of what bureaucratic jargon calls the "protected classes". Then there are the Catholics. It doesn't leave much room.

Maybe this is a good thing. But it must be remembered that Harvard, and most leading colleges here, are private institutions that were originally founded by Protestant religious sects to promote specific values. The total transformation of their character since the middle years of this century is an important cultural event, worth at least a paragraph in *Time* — which it didn't get.

What did get paragraphs, because it's readily deplorable, were the isolated instances of discrimination. But my observation, for what it's worth, is that Asians are widely respected, even popular, and oddly closer in their attitudes to Wasps than some other European immigrant groups have been. Nevertheless, America is only beginning to reap what the 1965 Immigration Act sowed. The author is a senior editor of *Forbes* magazine in New York.

## Realism: a guide for the Nineties

As a Social Democrat I would certainly prefer the second, and, wherever possible, voluntary contributions rather than fees and charges. Our social services were built up on the voluntary principle. It is part of our reforming heritage, extinguished by the state and the taxman, that we should not be afraid of reviving and adapting to modern conditions.

There has been a lot of talk recently about the so-called "underclass" — the large number of poor who seem to be trapped in hopeless dependence on state charity. How to break this dependence without cutting off the lifeline is the most difficult problem of all in social policy. The guiding principle for Social Democrats must surely be the concept of the "enabling state" — the principle that social provision for the very poor must be to enable them to stand on their own feet. All "caring" interventions must have "enabling" objectives. Mrs Thatcher's social policy has been a gamble on the strong, I would like to see us gamble on the weak, and help make them strong. We should also have a guiding principle on defence — that West-

ern Europe is too wealthy, and ought to have too much self-respect to remain for ever a military protectorate of the United States. I cannot understand those on the left who continue to rely on the United States to defend their liberty but who propose to close American military bases in Britain.

We and the Liberals are the only grouping in British politics which takes Europe seriously. If we value our independence we have to keep our own nuclear deterrent. If we value the independence of Western Europe we must be prepared to contribute our own deterrent to a minimum European deterrent, not as a replacement of the American, but as an insurance policy. We Social Democrats have already shown that we are willing to go down a road which, I feel sure, the US budget deficit will eventually force us to travel.

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## DISASTER IN BANGLADESH

While parts of India are suffering their worst drought in living memory, neighbouring Bangladesh is under water. More than 24 million people, a fifth of the population, are starving or homeless after some of the most devastating floods in its history.

The problem is not new. Rain in the monsoon season annually swamps the vast, low-lying, densely-populated deltas in which millions make a living from subsistence farming. The swollen rivers break their banks, as they have for centuries past, and flood the surrounding fields.

This deadly cycle has been exacerbated by human intervention in recent years. Forests have been cut down in Nepal and northern India. The erosion of topsoil caused by the removal of tree roots has allowed rainwater to drain southwards, leaving the local region with too little water and the people of Bangladesh with far too much.

There are programmes to combat the danger, including the protection of villages with dykes and the redirection of the deep brown waters. But the problem is so vast and the country so vulnerable by its very geographical position that it is hard to envisage a comprehensive answer.

The people who live in the blighted areas have resisted government attempts to move them to higher ground. The farmland in the Ganges delta is fertile. Much as farmers elsewhere will plant their crops and vines on the fertile slopes of dormant or active volcanoes, Bangladeshi peasants accept the

risk of occasional disaster for the sake of good yields at other times. It is a fatalistic attitude in a fatalistic culture.

Which is not to suggest that the world can turn its back on Bangladesh. It cannot and must not. The worst effect of these floods is yet to come. Government emergency programmes and foreign aid may cushion the delta's families for a while. But then the loss of crops and cattle will bring famine.

What the world can do, however, is strictly limited. The country is already the second highest recipient of British aid (after India), receiving about £40m a year. Foreign aid in general is estimated to account for two-thirds of the annual national income. Nor are donor countries eager to increase this, given the amount of aid which tends to go astray through corruption and inefficiency.

President Ershad, like some of his predecessors, is said to have learned to live with recurring disasters — which at least divert critical attention from political and economic problems in Dhaka. One way in which he might help improve the lot of his people is by continuing the fight against over-population. His government has already won praise for its work in this direction. But Bangladesh's population is still far too high for comfort — for the resources of its territory and its size. Meanwhile the rest of the world, in the simple interests of humanity, can only help relieve the suffering of those who live there as they limp past yet another episode in its history of natural disasters.

## SAINT AND CESSNA

Herr Mathias Rust is a lucky young man. Having confounded the might of the Soviet air defence system and lived to tell the tale, he has now confronted the full weight of the Soviet legal system and emerged with a sentence less than half the ten year maximum he and his family must have feared. The prosecutor's calls for eight years in a strict regime labour camp have been translated into four years in the lowest category of camp. That is no rest cure, but Rust should still be a young man when his sentence is spent — if he has to serve it.

Without contesting either the verdict, which was a foregone conclusion, or the process of Soviet law, about which serious questions can be raised, the sentence has logic. It is not so harsh as to raise an immediate clamour from the West about the quality of Soviet justice. Nor is it so lenient as to outrage those for whom Rust's solo flight to Red Square was an unparadiseable blow to Soviet prestige.

Principles have been upheld: that national frontiers are not to be violated and that unsanctioned flights endanger lives — in the air and on the ground. These principles are incontestable, and the Soviet Union is not alone in wanting to ensure that they are enforced. Now the principles have been established, however, it is hard to see what further interest Moscow would have in keeping Rust on Soviet territory for another four years.

For the Soviet leadership, Rust's continued presence in the Soviet Union would serve as a constant reminder of the day on which a Western teenager humiliated Soviet air security. Better to tolerate the inevitable blaze of publicity that will accompany his return home and wait for it to subside. The alternative is four more years of publicity, to be followed by the labour camp memoirs.

So long as Rust is in a Soviet labour camp, moreover, he will constitute a political issue between the Soviet Union and West Germany, and to some extent between East and West.

There are sufficient irritants in Soviet-West German relations already without adding another unnecessarily. The freeing of Rust would be a gesture of goodwill that could improve a relationship that is of commercial, as well as political importance to Moscow.

When the Soviet Union's sense of humiliation fades, it can be argued that Rust's airmanship did the Soviet air force and Mr Gorbachev a favour. In evading the Soviet Union's extensive air defences, Rust illustrated more clearly than anything else could have done — and more harmlessly — the shortcomings of the Soviet defence sector and of modern defences generally when faced with the primitive and the unexpected. His flight also enabled Mr Gorbachev to begin a wholesale purge of the military establishment, an enterprise for which he had arguably lacked the authority before.

Nor is Rust's continued detention in the Soviet Union likely to deter others. The chief attraction of flying undetected to the Kremlin is in being the first to do it. The chief deterrent is the risk of being shot down. Rust's success reduces the attraction and increases the risk many times over.

In every possible way, Rust's exploit was exceptional; as such, it merits exceptional treatment. The forthcoming seventieth anniversary of the October Revolution, for which an extensive amnesty has already been announced, offers an opportunity for Moscow to show clemency without losing face.

Whatever the Soviet Union decides — and the decision (like the decision to put Rust on trial) will probably pit the Kremlin's sticklers for principle against its pragmatists — the young West German pilot will have his memories, and so will we. The image of Herr Rust's Cessna (c.1981) parked in front of the oriental domes of St Basil's Cathedral (c.1560) will live in the mind's eye for a very long time.

## FOURTH LEADER

The workers of the Renault car firm recently went on strike, partly to protest against the dismissal of nine of their number whom they claimed had been victimized, and partly to indicate their opposition to the privatization of the company, about which there have been rumours. In furtherance of their twin objects, they staged a public demonstration.

Some might think it wrong for a British commentator to take sides in a foreign industrial dispute; it is not, however, the rights and wrongs of the matter that provoke comment, but the venue. The demonstration took place on the roof of the Paris Opera.

There has been no authoritative statement from the union for the reason for this curious choice, and speculation is thus left free to roam. No doubt some of the management of the Opera drive Renaults, but that must be true of hundreds of French institutions; why such singling out? And although it is true that in that entertaining film, *The Italian Job*, the cars in the chase scene drove across the roof of a large building with Paris knows that the roof of the Opera is unattainable on wheels, whether the wheels are made by Renault or Rolls-Royce.

Nor is there any evidence that the singers, persuaded by the men's case, had made common cause with them and agreed to give an al fresco benefit performance. Certainly, the

stirring notes of Domingo or Le Kanawa floating down upon the Place de l'Opera would stop the traffic, and not only Renaults, but it seems that the day passed without any musical accompaniment.

Possibly the head of the Renault firm is a passionate opera-lover, but it is hardly likely that his taste for the lyric drama is sufficiently well-known among the Parisian public for them to draw unaided the correct conclusion from a manifestation on the roof of the Opera. As for the suggestion that the management of the Opera had selected a Renault for the car in Act Three of *Götterdämmerung*, it is simply too far-fetched for belief. (You didn't know there was a car in Act Three of *Götterdämmerung*? Wait till Mr Jonathan Miller gets around to it.)

It may be, of course, that the nine dismissed Renault workers had been sacked because they took time off without permission to go to the opera, but surely even the most irresponsible union could hardly defend such conduct, even if the General Secretary was an opera-buff himself.

Stay! The solution to the mystery has been in plain view all this time. Surely, if you want to know what is going on on the roof of the Opera, ask what is going on on the stage. Without doubt, the work playing in the evening of the demo-day must have been *Carmen*.

## Here and there

**From the Master of Hallelujah**  
Sir, I have recently returned from Florida and I have to report that their waiters, waitresses and shop assistants are ahead of ours. Throughout the state "There you go" has become "Away you go" — a fortunate greeting rather than an injunction and its apparent friendliness invariably belied by attentive and smiling courtesy. Yours faithfully, D. J. JEWELL, Master, Hallelujah, Herford.

## Treatment of trauma

**From Mr Alan Leaman**  
Sir, Much of what Stephen Westaby has to say about the accident and emergency service in this country (report, August 29) is

misleading, but this is an inevitable consequence when a doctor chooses to make comments about a speciality which is not his own. There is certainly scope to improve the management of major trauma but the care of these patients and of the others seen in departments of accident and emergency medicine has never been better and continues to improve.

Most of these departments are now run by consultants formally trained in this speciality and all of them are experienced in the initial management of major trauma. It is true that much of the service is provided by junior doctors, but this is so for most other specialities in hospital. Because of the difficult nature of the work junior

staff in accident departments receive more formal training than in any other speciality.

As to delays in treatment all patients with major trauma are seen immediately. Only those with what Mr Westaby chooses to call "medical trivia" have to wait their turn.

Finally, most major trauma is preventable and before spending more on treatment we should examine ways of avoiding such injuries. Tightening up the drink-driving law would be a good start.

Yours sincerely, ALAN LEAMAN, Senior Registrar, Department of Accident and Emergency, Arrowe Park Hospital, Upton, Wirral, Merseyside.

## Community's record on food aid

**From the Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Development**

Sir, Sheila Ginn's article in *The Times* of September 3 gives a false impression concerning the European Community's food aid programme for developing countries which is not wholly corrected by your leading article of the same date.

The Court of Auditors' report, to which the Commission has replied in detail, reviews food aid operations between 1979 and 1983 and highlights only a small number of cases (90 consignments out of 8,000 during the period) where food aid deliveries failed to reach the usual quality standards.

The Commission was of course fully aware of certain shortcomings in this area before the Court of Auditors published its report. On my initiative, the Commission had already undertaken a fundamental reform of its food aid policy, culminating in new legislation approved in December, 1986.

A central feature of this reform is that the Commission itself has, as of July 1, 1987, taken over direct responsibility for the management of food aid consignments which in the past was undertaken by the intervention agencies of the member states. The simplified procedures now introduced will allow closer supervision and a means of compensating recipient countries if the quality of food aid falls short of requirements.

I entirely agree with you, Sir, concerning the importance of triangular food operations, where indeed the Community has been

leader among food donors in financing the purchase of food surpluses in developing countries close to deficit areas.

More generally, the Commission is entirely aware that food aid is an instrument which has to be used with extreme care in order to avoid the destruction of local production, or the introduction of new and costly food habits. Since taking up my present responsibility as Commissioner for Development, I have consistently held that the developing countries must not be made the dumping grounds for Europe's food surpluses. Since 1982, this has been the clearly laid down policy of the European Community and my wish would be that other food aid donors should act on the same lines.

I regret ill-informed criticism of the Community's food aid policy which can create in your readers the impression that food aid is indeed a "catalogue of disasters". The Community's food aid programme proved its worth during the African food crisis of 1984-1985, when 2.3 million tonnes of food aid significantly contributed to the survival of millions of Africans. Food aid, properly administered jointly by the Commission and the recipient governments, remains a significant and indispensable force for development.

Yours faithfully, LORENZO NATALI, Vice-President responsible for Development, Commission of the European Communities, Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium, September 3.

## New political party

**From the President of the Liberal Party**

Sir, Liberals like myself are accused of being vindictive when we decline to assure David Owen, John Cartwright and Rosie Barnes that our new party will not contest their seats at the next general election (SDP conference reports, August 31-September 3).

There are, in fact, three reasons why it is impossible to offer such assurance now.

First, if we did, we would be saying to them that no matter what they do over the next four years, no matter what they say, no matter what policy differences arise, no matter how much they condemn and criticise our party, they will not be opposed. It would be a blank cheque. I cannot believe that any party could do that at this point.

Second, if the new party is to be genuinely democratic, genuinely decentralised, how can we, before it even exists, decide that three of the local parties will be unable to have their own candidate, effectively unable to participate in the general election? It is essential that they are involved in the decision.

Third, we do not know how the public will respond to the new party. If, as we hope, it captures their imagination, and rises in the opinion polls, so that it is seen to be a substantial contender at the general election, as a real and credible alternative to the two old vehicles of vested interest, then every voter in the country will want at least the option of supporting it. Are we to deny that to voters in Greenwich, Woolwich, and Plymouth Devonport?

Obviously we are all sympathetic to the suggestion that we should not oppose the three; but it must be obvious from the above that it is impossible to commit ourselves until we see how the new party develops, how the voters respond, and, yes, how the three MPs behave too.

Yours, DES WILSON, President, The Liberal Party, 3 Endsleigh Street, WC1, September 3.

## Flow country forests

**From Mr C. G. Headlam**

Sir, In about 1980 I joined a party of professional foresters to look at some Forestry Commission and private company forestry near the River Thurn in Calthness.

A discussion developed as to whether the Sitka Spruce planted could root properly with very deep ditches set very close together to drain the peat. One side argued that the ridge should be left wide enough to plant two rows of Sitka which would then each protect the other row from wind-blown.

Other a few months a scientific paper was published which showed that the species' thick roots, which anchor the tree, could not possibly develop in such overwet situations (the Flow Country) except along the ridges.

Nobody in my hearing made any reference whatever to the harmful effect on the Thurn (a famous and valuable salmon river) of the peat, acid and silt run off from this large-scale ditching. Nobody made any mention of the

penalty in making trees vulnerable to attack by insect predators by planting them in what the Chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council (August 10) calls these "naturally treeless peatlands". All these foresters knew of the experiment at Risdale a few miles away, in drier peat, in which the entire area (of Lodgepole Pine) was killed out by caterpillars.

It is far from being the case, as Lord John-Mackie claimed in his article (August 1), that "Forestry has become the victim of the conservation lobby".

In relation to planting on such peatlands the forestry industry has been led astray by the Forestry Commission's lack of regard to reasonable use of land, and by the way it has framed its grant-aid regulations so that the taxpayer has to subsidise forestry (sic) in "naturally treeless peatland".

Yours etc, CHRISTOPHER HEADLAM, Orchard Close, East Chinnock, Yeovil, Somerset, August 10.

## Second-hand letters

**From Sir John Rawlins**

Sir, Like many people who are semi-retired I am involved in much correspondence with people who seek advice from one who has an extensive background of applied research in several fields. Accordingly I make use of a very efficient part-time secretary who, having small children, does most of my typing at home. She signs my letters on my behalf in order to avoid the delay and expense of returning them to me for my signature.

If anyone is such a pompous ass as to feel offended thereby he is most welcome to take his problems elsewhere. I say "his" prob-

lems because I do not believe a woman would have such an inflated sense of self-importance.

Yours faithfully, JOHN RAWLINS, Wey House, Standford Lane, Headley, Bordon, Hampshire.

**From Mr Herbert Spencer**

Sir, The late Sir John Betjeman would end his reply to a letter signed by a secretary on the absence of the originator: "Written by his secretary and signed in her absence by John Betjeman". Yours faithfully, HERBERT SPENCER, 75 Deodar Road, Putney, SW15, September 2.

## Debt to Europe

**From Mr Peter Carpenter**

Sir, The proposal for compiling a record of refugees to this country in the 1930s who made a significant contribution to it (letters, August 24 and 27) is not only pertinent but timely. For many who "qualify" are no longer with us.

An example is Kurt Hahn, without whom there would be today no Outward Bound Schools, no United World College, no Duke of Edinburgh's Award, etc. The University of Cambridge recently established a scholarship in his memory.

Yours faithfully, PETER CARPENTER (Trustee, University of Cambridge Kurt Hahn Trust), 8 North Terrace, Cambridge, August 29.

## Hungerford killings

**From Mr P. G. Rycart**

Sir, The decision by both BBC and ITV to withdraw certain programmes as a result of the tragic shootings in Hungerford brings to light a wholly unacceptable form of hypocrisy.

Either these programmes have been considered as well-made, acceptable viewing, ready to beam into family living rooms as suitable viewing, or not. If they are not, why were they scheduled in the first place?

When do these "withdrawn" programmes become "acceptable" again? Ten days? Two weeks? Or is it all right now that the funerals are over?

Yours faithfully, PATRICK RYCART, Victoria Palace Theatre, Victoria Street, SW1, August 30.

## Exam results in comprehensives

**From the Headteacher of Plasht School, Newham**

Sir, So comprehensive schools have to take yet more criticism. Following the 16+ examination results, a Mori poll last week (report, August 27) claims three out of five parents favour a return to selective education.

Exam results have to be judged by and in the context of the circumstances in which they are achieved — something which mere figures and percentages cannot convey. But to counter such unfounded allegations that (as one national newspaper has commented) comprehensive schools have "failed to deliver the goods" in terms of academic results, one has to resort to doing just that and quote facts and figures.

Plasht School may not be the centre of academic excellence it could be, but out of 220 girls entered this year for the 16+ examination in English language, 82 obtained the equivalent of an O-level pass; and out of 165 girls entered for English literature, 63 obtained the equivalent of an O-level pass. Of the remainder, 136 and 81 respectively obtained the equivalent of 2, 3 and 4 CSE grades. The remaining two pupils obtained grade 5 and no pupil was unclassified in either subject.

These are credible results for pupils of all abilities, by anyone's standards. But when one takes into account the fact that they were attained by pupils who in educational terms may be defined as "developing bilinguals" their true significance can be appreciated.

A language other than English is spoken in over 60 per cent of pupils' homes, for some of whom English is the second language. Since language is absorbed through culture and environment — the home being the most significant — the achievement of these pupils should not be underestimated. The fact that out of a

total of 385 entries not even one was unclassified must be to the credit of the comprehensive education they received and the teachers in the school.

Our English results are only one example of how "goods are delivered" in a comprehensive school in Newham. The fact is that in comprehensive schools up and down the country worthwhile and creditable work is being done not only in achieving good exam results but also in providing good overall education to those who are neither "selected" nor born into "comfortable" homes.

Yours faithfully, HEATHER WILLIAMS, Headteacher, Plasht School, Plasht Grove, East Ham, E6, September 1.

## Religious studies

**From Mr Brendan Moran**

Sir, I am gravely concerned that Kenneth Baker's proposals for a national curriculum mean the end of religious studies as an exam subject in most British schools.

Under the Baker plan religion is a non-foundation subject which can only be taught in non-foundation time of about six periods per week. Religion will therefore be competing for time with a host of other non-foundation subjects.

After five years of this system there will be virtually no students studying religion at A level. After 10 years there will be virtually no trained religion teachers emerging from college to teach what little religion survives in British schools.

Yours sincerely, BRENDAN MORAN, 25 Woburn Court, Vincent Road, Luton, Bedfordshire, August 26.

## ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 5 1870

**Marshal Marie Edmé de MacMahon (1808-1893)** was descended from an Irish family which accompanied James II into exile. Less than three years after this crushing defeat by the Prussians he was elected President of the Republic.

## FRENCH SURRENDER AT SEDAN

MAC-MAHON has succumbed. His fight before Sedan was prompted by hope against hope. He was a soldier to the heart's core, and seemed bent to atone by his heroism as a soldier for his blunders as a General. He is said to have put himself at the head of his various columns one after another as they went forward to the onslaught, and to have only desisted when he sank to the ground borne down by severe wounds. The very soul of the army seemed to collapse with the downfall of its heroic commander. The duty of capitulation devolved upon General WIMPFFEN.

All telegraphic intelligence of the decisive engagement before Sedan is limited to an account of the astounding results. An army of at least 80,000 men has surrendered. Before the evening of Wednesday the war was virtually at an end, inasmuch as the French had been driven for shelter to the very bastions of Sedan, and the victorious Prussians, under the CROWN PRINCE OF SAXONY, had spread all round that stronghold on the south, east, and north: at the same time that the forces under the command of the CROWN PRINCE OF PRUSSIA pressed forward on the west and north-west, occupying all the passes of the Meuse between Sedan and Mézières, and cutting off Mézières itself from all communication with Reims and Hirsion. Shut up in Sedan as in a trap, MAC-MAHON's army determined to strike one more blow on the Thursday — a blow no longer for safety, but for honour. It sallied forth nerveless with the courage of despair, and, to all appearance, the enemy had to pay dearly for his victory. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, as we learn from King WILLIAM's despatch, the French army had been almost entirely driven into Sedan. Towards evening the fighting, which had lasted ten hours, came to an end, and then it was that the exhausted troops realized the full extent of their defeat. Sedan offered neither a sufficient nor a safe refuge for so large a force. A retreat across the frontier into Belgium was no longer practicable except by dint of desperate fighting, and nothing but disarmament, dispersion, and humiliation awaited the fugitives on the other side the border. The soldiers were worn out by two weeks' marches and by three days' battles. They had probably suffered severe privations along the road; and they had nothing but starvation before them at their halting-place. It is dreadful to think of the only course open to them — a surrender — the surrender of any army of 80,000 men! The humiliation of 'Um to be endured by a force twice as large as that of General MAC-MAHON, and by French soldiers, by the flower of an army which, properly led, was capable of all the prodigies of valour accomplished, by the troops of the First Empire!

## On the scrapheap

**From Mr J. Parfitt**

Sir, We have become used to hearing rubbish dumps described as Civic Amenity Sites. But what is to be made of yesterday's televised exhortation from the Avon Fire Brigade that, to avoid danger from bonfires, we should take our rubbish to self disposal facilities?

Immolation before incineration? I am, Sir, your obedient servant. JOHN PARFITT, South Gables, Cotswold Mead, Painswick, Gloucestershire, August 29.

## Lines of defence

**From Mr B. G. Coward**

Sir, Being "in a meeting" (September 2) must be rather more comfortable, I imagine, than being "tied up at present" which is the most frequent excuse I receive when trying to contact a business executive.

Yours faithfully, BRUCE COWARD, Upper Stokechiff, Swannaton Road, Dartmouth, Devon, September 2.

## Out of print

**From Mr John Paul Story**

Sir, Am I the only one who laments the decline of cereal packets as reading matter? Time was when a bachelor could pass the full consumption period with the back of the pack as company. Is there any reason for the minimal amount of printing which now so often appears? Yours, bored at the breakfast table, JOHN PAUL STORY, The Penthouse, 72a St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, September 1.





## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

**BALMORAL CASTLE**  
September 4: The Queen was represented by the Lord Beaverbrook (Lord In Waiting) at the Memorial Service for Sir Francis Russell (formerly Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Tokyo) which was held in the Crypt Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral today.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
September 4: The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, was present this evening at The Royal Surgical Aid Society's Ball at Dorset School for the Blind, near Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, President of the Salisbury Cathedral Spire Trust, will lay the first stone of the renovation work to the spire of Salisbury Cathedral on September 17.

Princess Margaret will open Dalton Leisure Centre, Cumbria, on September 18.

### Today's royal engagement

The Duchess of York, President of Action Research for the Crippled Child, accompanied by the Duke of York, will attend a ball, at which Mrs Robert Sangster will be hostess, at the Nunnery, Isle of Man, in aid of Action Research and Save the Children Fund at 8.00.

### Birthdays

**TODAY:** Mr R.S. Alexander, QC, former Chairman of the Bar, 51; Mr Justice Bush, 62; Lord Delfont, 78; Mr R.J. Dunn, managing director, Thames Television, 44; Professor Peter Fricker, composer and conductor, 67; Mr Russell Harvy, broadcaster, 53; Mrs Elizabeth Hedley-Miller, civil servant, 64; Sir Francis Lloyd, former Colonial officer, 71; Mr William Nurnaw, investment consultant, 84; Canon Peter Pilkington, high master, St Paul's School, 54; Mr G.W. Tremlett, author, 54; Sir Denis Wilkinson, vice-chancellor, Sussex University, 65; Mr Frank Yerby, novelist, 71.

**TOMORROW:** The Right Rev John Bickersteth, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 66; Sir Derman Christopherson, former vice-chancellor, Durham University, 72; General Sir Peter Helling, 71; Miss Monica Mason, ballerina, 46; Mr Justice Pinn, 74; Sir James Stubbfield, geologist, 86; Miss J.A. Tredgold, former principal, Cheltenham Ladies' College, 84; Sir Anthony Wagner, former Garter King of Arms, 79; Mr R.C. Young, rugby player, 50; Sir William McEwan Younger, former chairman, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, 82.

### Reception

**HM Government**  
Mr Peter Fraser, QC, Solicitor General for Scotland, was host at a reception held last night at 6 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, on the occasion of the Annual Congress of the Salvation Army in Scotland.

## Elaine Kaye

# A partnership unfulfilled

Seventy years ago this month the first woman was ordained to the Christian ministry in this country. Constance Colman, then Constance Todd, was ordained to the Congregational ministry on September 17, 1917.

Constance Colman was brought up in the Presbyterian Church of England. She was fortunate in having parents who considered the education of their daughters as important as that of their sons.

After spending three years at Somerville College, Oxford, and taking a degree in all but name, she persuaded the Principal and Council of Mansfield College, Oxford, that she had a genuine call to the ministry, and she took the full three-year ministerial course.

At the time of her ordination, she was already a member of the King's Weigh House Congregational Church in London, where she was experiencing the remarkably ministry of W.E. Orchard, whose preaching and frequent

celebrations of the Eucharist drew on Catholic as well as Protestant sources.

The ordination was carried out according to the order of the Congregational tradition. She had been "called" — together with Claud Colman, the man who became her husband the day after the ordination service — by the King's Weigh House church meeting to minister at its Darby Street mission in the East End.

When her ordination was raised at its autumn assembly, the Congregational Union resolved that a woman who fulfilled the conditions expected of male candidates for the ministry should be recognized on receiving a call.

Both Orchard and the new woman minister believed that male metaphors for God could be misleading. "It is to be feared that the exigencies of our language have betrayed some of us into imagining that God is of the masculine gender," wrote Orchard before

he went to the Weigh House.

Constance Colman, like Orchard, believed that a rediscovery of the motherhood as well as the fatherhood of God could bring not only a deeper understanding of the divine nature but also a new appreciation of women's contribution to the church.

She wrote: "Woman has value altogether independent of her sexual functions, which is derived not from her relationship to man, as wife or mother, but from her relation to God".

She believed that a woman's special contribution would include religious education, a sympathy and understanding of "ordinary working people", especially from ministers who were also mothers (as she herself was); and a deep desire for peace and the healing of divisions between human beings.

Thus a woman minister would stand as a symbol of the equality of all human beings

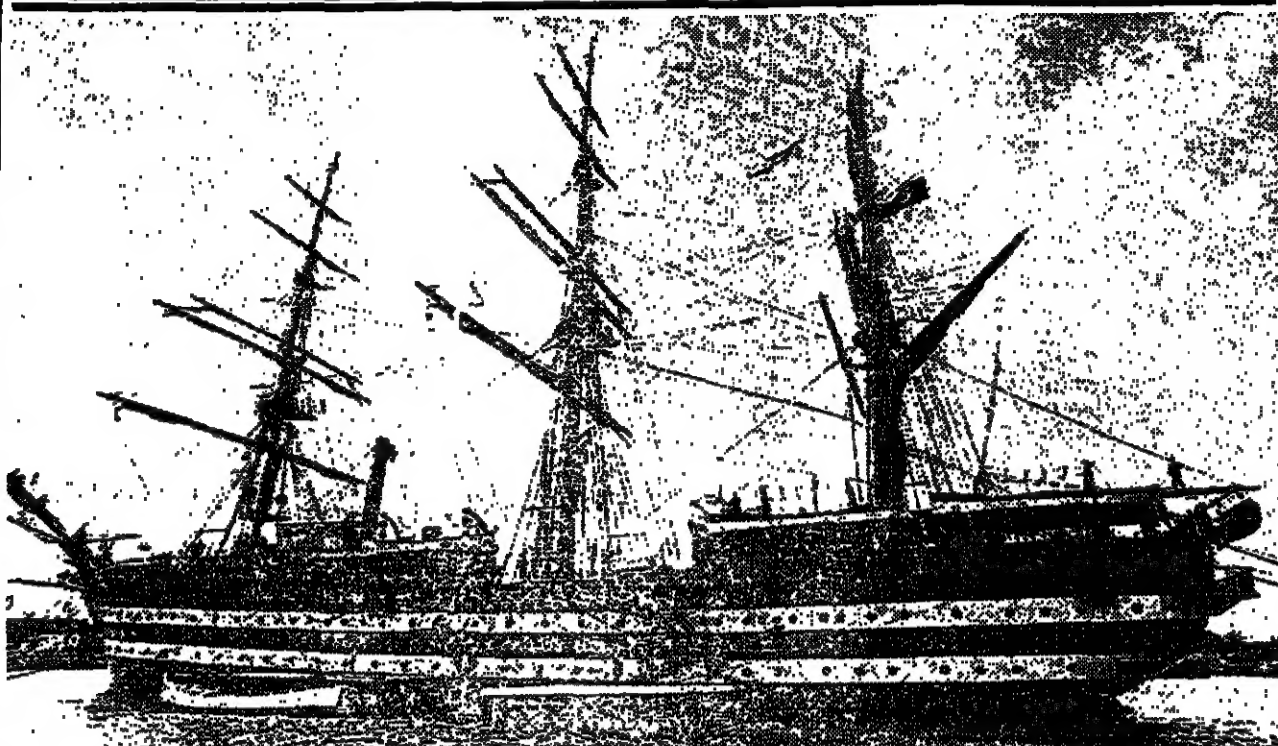
before God, as a historical, not just an eschatological possibility.

Constance Colman's ordination marked the beginning of a new era. At first only a small trickle of women followed her example. But more recently growing numbers of women have sought ordination, and there are now more than 200 ordained women ministers in the United Reformed Church, with smaller numbers in the Methodist and Baptist churches.

Yet it was, and remains, only a beginning, for other branches of the church in this country still refuse to ordain women to the full Christian ministry.

Who could say that the partnership of women and men in the church, in the ordained ministry as in other ways, has yet realized a fraction of its potential?

Miss Kaye is an elder of Summertown United Reformed Church, Oxford.



The Italian navy sail training ship, Amerigo Vesputti, yesterday shortly after arriving off Greenwich Pier, London, as part of a campaign for the protection of the seas from pollution. The ship, named after the Florentine navigator immortalized as America, is open to the public between 3pm and 6pm from tomorrow until Tuesday.

## News from the schools

### Ardingly College

Michaelmas Term at Ardingly College begins on Sunday, September 6. Paul D. Wafer (Levington) is senior prefect. This year sees the centenary of the founding of the orchestra and a series of musical events will celebrate this throughout the year. The first will be on Sunday, December 6, when Anthony Hopkins will conduct the orchestra, chapel choir and choral society in an evening of music-making. The chapel choir will sing evensong on October 23. The foundation stone of the upper sixth house will be laid on Friday, September 25. The drama club revue will run from November 18 to 21. There will be an Advent carol service by candlelight on December 1 and the carol service will take place on December 8 and 9. Term ends on Friday, December 11.

### Cranleigh School

Michaelmas Term at Cranleigh School begins on Sunday, September 6. Emmanuel Power is senior prefect and Edward Culley deputy senior prefect.

### Judge Michael Kennedy, QC

is the guest of honour at the Cranleigh dinner on October 10. The school play, *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, is on November 11 to 13 and the Christmas concert on December 6. Long leave is from October 24 to November 1 and term ends on December 11.

### Moreton Hall, Shropshire

Autumn Term at Moreton Hall begins today with 334 girls on roll, of whom 106 are in the sixth form. Patricia Gregson has taken up the post of vice-principal and Dr Michael Ingle that of director of studies. Sharon Russell is head prefect with Rachel French-Greenslade and Sarah Williams as second prefects. Sarah Williams is captain of lacrosse. Mr Paul Black and the Rev David Watts will be joining the governing council. Half-term will be from Saturday, October 24, until Sunday, November 1. A carol service will be held in Oswestry Parish Church at 3 pm on Friday, December 11 and term will end on Saturday, December 12.

## Forthcoming marriages

### Mr J.O. Bender and Miss S.M.G.M. van Hellenberg Hubar

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.O. Bender, of Voorschoten, Holland, and Saskia, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Coma van Hellenberg Hubar, of Doorn, Holland.

### Mr C. Blauth-Muszkowski and Dr E.J. Hasby

The engagement is announced between Christopher Leo Anthony, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Christopher Blauth-Muszkowski, of Ealing, London, and Elizabeth Jane, younger daughter of Mr Donald L. Hasby, of Upton, Newark, Nottinghamshire, and Mrs Barbara L. Hasby, of Wheatthamstead, Hertfordshire.

### Mr J.P.L. Cox and Miss S.A. Rothera

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Dr and Mrs A.F.J. Cox, of Unbridge, Kent, and Sally, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D.O. Rothera, of Worthing, West Sussex.

### Mr C.J.J. Drinkall and Miss M.A. Irving

The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.J.J. Drinkall, of Tiverton, Devon, and Alison, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs R. Irving, of Edinburgh.

### Mr M.N.D. Elliott and Miss C.M.M. Romer

The engagement is announced between Mark Nicholas David, second son of the late Mr Harry Elliott and Mrs Sheila Elliott, of East Sheen, London, and Catherine Marie Michel, second daughter of Major and Mrs E.M. Romer, of Ealing, London.

### Mr T.J.L. Harrison and Miss J.V. Koutzoukis

The engagement is announced between Tim, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Harrison, of Swanage, Dorset, and Jane, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Koutzoukis, of Kharoum, Sudan.

### Mr M.G. Lindley and Miss M.H. Langer

The engagement is announced between Martin Graham, younger son of Mr George Lindley and Mrs M.H. Lindley, of Nunhead, London, SE15, and Madeleine Helen, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Christine Langer, of The First, Goudhurst, Kent.

### Mr I. McCulloch and Miss S. Penzance

The engagement is announced between Iain, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Wells McCulloch, of Beverley, Yorkshire, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. McCarthy, of Braintree, Essex.

### Mr J.A. McGhee and Miss T. Kyriakides

The engagement is announced between John Alexander, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.O. McGhee, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Tina, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.C. Kyriakides, of Epsom, Surrey.

### Mr S.R. Steeden and Miss J.A. Hooper

The engagement is announced between Samuel, son of Mr and Mrs V.A.N. Steeden, of Cobham, Surrey, and Jeanette, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs L. Hooper, of Weybridge, Surrey.

### Captain M.R. Winsloe and Miss K.C. Alderidge

The engagement is announced between Mark Winsloe, The Royal Green Jackets, son of Mr and Mrs David Winsloe, of Crondall, Hampshire, and Tina, daughter of Dr and Mrs G.L.N. Alderidge, of Zimbabwe.

## OBITUARY

# MR MAXWELL FRY

## Bringing modern architecture to Britain

Mr Maxwell Fry, CBE, RA, FRIBA, who died on September 3, at the age of 88, was one of the pioneers of modern architecture in this country.

He will be remembered as one of the small group of architects (which also included Wells Coates, F.R.S., Yorke and Berthold Lubetkin) who, throughout the 1930s, endeavoured by precept and practice to introduce into Britain the new concepts of architecture that had recently emerged in Europe.

Thus he ended Britain's isolation from the international stream of architectural thought and helped to shift the emphasis from architecture as a style to architecture as a matter of social responsibility.

Fry will be remembered also as Gropius's partner during the latter's two-year stay in England between his flight from Nazi Germany and his emigration to America, and as one of the team of architects that worked with Le Corbusier on the design and initial construction of the Indian city of Chandigarh, the new capital of the Punjab.

Edwin Maxwell Fry was born at Wallasey on August 2, 1899, and educated at the Liverpool Institute and the Liverpool University School of Architecture, from which he graduated in 1923. It was a time when there was a ferment of architectural ideas but little possibility of getting them built.

He was just old enough to serve for a short spell in the Army before the end of the First World War.

After working in the London office of Adams and Thompson (where he had experience of the town-planning opportunities and responsibilities of his profession, in which he maintained an interest all his life), Fry set up in practice on his own and was responsible for a number of buildings which, though modest in size, had a strong influence of his own generation of architects not only because of their uncompromising modernity but because they exemplified the elegance and imagination of which the new architecture was at its best capable.

These buildings included private houses and small blocks of flats and a working-class housing scheme at Kensal Green, London, which set new standards for its time and which Fry designed as the

leader of a group of architects co-operating with Elizabeth Denby, the housing expert and reformer.

During these years, places in Fry's office were much sought after by the eager young men of the profession. Many who later distinguished themselves passed through it and have never forgotten Fry's early influence on them.

He continued actively to promote new architectural ideas, especially as a member of the MARS (modern architectural research) Group, the spearhead of architectural change in England and the English branch of the *Internationale d'Architecture Moderne*, at whose meetings in various parts of Europe Fry was a familiar figure.

His partnership with Gropius increased his reputation as one of the significant English architects. Together they were responsible for several buildings, for Impington Village College, near Cambridge (the brainchild of the late Henry Morris, pioneer educator), and a number of unrealized projects.

He was also chief architectural designer to the Southern Railway and was consulting architect to several concerns, including London Zoo.

In the Second World War Fry served in the Royal Engineers and, after serving as a staff captain at the War Office, was given the rank of major and posted to West Africa, from which circumstance arose a connection with that territory which lasted for some years.

In 1944, he became town-planning adviser to the Resident Minister for the West African Colonies, and after the war he opened an office in Ghana (then the Gold Coast) and carried out a quantity of work there and in Nigeria, mostly for educational purposes, and in temporary partnership with other British architects. His most notable work in West Africa is the University of Ibadan.

It was in 1951 that he was invited to join the team of architects that Le Corbusier was taking to India to work at Chandigarh. Fry and his second wife, Jane Drew, herself an architect of note, lived there for three years, playing an active part in planning the new city, organizing its construction and themselves designing standard-type

## VIKTOR NEKRASOV



Viktor Nekrasov, the Russian writer who won official approval for his novel about the Battle of Stalingrad, but who later became disenchanted with the Soviet regime, died in exile, in Paris, on September 3. He was 76.

*Front-Line Stalingrad*, which was published in the Soviet Union in 1946, was an unvarnished soldier's account of daily life during that desperate struggle, and won Nekrasov a Stalin Prize in the following year.

Ironically, it was not until the advent of the more liberal Khrushchev that Nekrasov fell foul of officialdom. Khrushchev resented the even-handed tone of Nekrasov's travel book, *Both Sides of the Ocean*, and from then on the writer was seldom out of trouble for his objective stance on political and cultural matters.

Viktor Platonovich Nekrasov was born in Kiev on June 17, 1911. But from an early age French culture played an important part in his life. His mother was a medical graduate of Lausanne University, and, as a boy, Nekrasov lived in Switzerland and then in Paris, where she met his father.

After the First World War, he returned with his mother to Kiev (his father had died in 1917). After leaving school, he studied railway engineering, but abandoned this for architecture. His dream, as he said at that time, was to become the Soviet "Le Corbusier", and he went to the Construction Institute in Kiev.

Yet another whim led him to leave the institute. The theatre now captivated him, and his hero was, for a time, Stanislavsky. He stuck at this for a while, and toured for three years throughout the length

and breadth of the Soviet Union as an actor, assistant director and stage designer.

The war ended this phase of his career. He was drafted into the army, in the engineers, and saw continuous active service until he was severely wounded in Poland in 1944, and invalided out.

He fought throughout the five grim months of the Stalingrad siege, and this experience provided him with the material for his novel *Yokopakh Stalingrada* (1946). If this does not rank as one of the great Russian novels of war, it is nevertheless remarkable for its lack of that jingoism which, perhaps understandably, pervaded Soviet literature in the immediate aftermath of the "Great Patriotic War".

His preoccupations were those of the fighting soldier. The efficient digging of trenches and wiring of circuits were more pertinent to his character than feeling patriotic or heroic.

Indeed, this dispassionate treatment at first raised official eyebrows, but the author was excused on the

## MORTON FELDMAN

Morton Feldman, American composer, who was a leading exponent of avant-garde music in that country, died on September 3. He was 61.

He was born in New York City on January 12, 1926, and studied composition with Riegger and Wolpe, but it was his meeting with Cage in 1959 that had most effect in shaping his attitudes to composition.

For the next few years he was closely associated with Cage, Brown, Wolf and Tudor, and with New York's abstract expressionist painters, whose work influenced him more than any musician.

Among his innovations were the concept of indeterminacy, in which only

approximations of a pitch and instrumentation are indicated, and graphic notation, which occasionally replaced the conventional system of notes on a musical staff as an indication of musical progress.

Far from making the task of the player easy, his requirements proved extremely demanding.

Feldman's works were characterized by extremely low dynamic levels and slow evolution of form in which silence often assumed equal importance with musical sounds. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that he turned to the Beckett text, *Neither*, around which he composed an opera.

housing and other buildings. Lahore, capital of the old, undivided Punjab, went to Pakistan in 1947.

Fry and his wife had previously set up a new office in London with a number of younger partners, and this eventually grew to a considerable size.

But in these new circumstances his personal talent somehow became submerged, and the work of the firm that bore his name, though of acceptable quality, was not easy to distinguish from the competent modern work done by many other firms. Fry's originality, and his sparkle as a designer, were far less evident than in his pre-war buildings.

He served on the council of the Royal Institute of British Architects, of which he was vice-president in 1961-2. He was awarded the institute's Royal Gold Medal in 1964. He served also on the Royal Fine Arts Commission and on the council of the Royal Society of Arts.

He was elected a corresponding member of the Académie Française in 1956, and an honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1963. He was an honorary LLD of Ibadan University. Late in life he became the Royal Academy's professor of architecture.

Fry was a slightly-built man, precise in manner and speech. He had a friendly, unassuming nature and a youthful outlook which he maintained to the very end of his life.

Throughout his career he took a lively interest in all the arts and was an enthusiastic supporter of many good causes connected with them. His house and offices overflowed with paintings and sculpture, many of them pieces that he bought to help young artists.

Though not a very coherent public speaker, his dedication to the cause of good architecture came out in private talk and in his occasional writings. He was the author of a book called *Fine Buildings*, published in 1944, and, with his wife, of useful text-books on tropical architecture, a subject on which his experience of building in Africa and Asia made him something of an expert.

He was twice married: first, in 1927, to Ethel Speakman by whom he had a daughter, and in 1942, after a divorce, to Jane Drew, with whom he entered a professional partnership.

Nekrasov's second novel was published in 1954, *Vrodnom gorode* (Back Home, 1954) dealt with the disillusionment felt by a disabled war veteran on his return to Kiev, but its opinions passed unremarked among the Soviet censors.

It was not until 1962 that Nekrasov's independent stance drew the wrath of authority. He had been on tours of Europe and America in 1957, 1960 and 1962, and his book *Both Sides of the Ocean* described his impressions, and made comparisons with his native country, with a candour which was not at all welcome.

Khrushchev denounced the book, and its author was attacked, and expelled from the Communist Party, and from the Union of Writers.

Far from making Nekrasov amenable, this only quickened his awareness of the shortcomings of his country. In the post-Khrushchev era he publicly rang himself with major dissidents such as Sakharov, spoke out against the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968, and generally made himself obnoxious to authority for his refusal to knuckle under.

Eventually, in 1974, he was allowed to leave the Soviet Union, and was subsequently stripped of his citizenship. Since then he had lived in Paris where he was at the centre of a circle of Soviet dissidents.

His wife and son were allowed to join him in 1976.

## MR ALAN REID

Mr Alan Reid, former lobby correspondent of the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* and *The Bulletin*, has died at the age of 72.

Like most lobby correspondents, he displayed a sort of fascinated cynicism concerning the intrigues which he described.

He was, nevertheless, held in high regard both for his persistence and his accuracy, and on his retirement two years ago, he was showered with tributes and widely feted, not least by politicians.

His book *The Power Struggle* (1970) is a study of the rise of Mr (now, Sir) John Gorton, Prime Minister of Australia from 1968 to 1971.

# EMERGENCY FLOODS IN BANGLADESH

- ONE THIRD OF LAND IN BANGLADESH UNDER WATER
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A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE  
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS  
September 5-11, 1987

## SATURDAY



The saving of a young master: Lord Dunluc, conservation expert at the Tate Gallery, works on a 1951 Jackson Pollock. On the left is a 19th-century work by George Jones; on the right, a restored Gainsborough (photographs: Nick Rogers)

# Masterpieces that fall to pieces

This is the time of year when the shopkeepers of Mayfair's Cork Street polish their plate glass windows in genteel anticipation of the coming season. As the country's most exclusive purveyors of contemporary art, they have good reason to be rubbing their hands: their goods have been commanding escalating prices.

At the first event in the new season — Art '87 in Islington — dealers will be stressing the dual charms of buying contemporary art: inspiration and investment. The picture on your wall today, they argue, may be the money-spinner of tomorrow.

Or will it? Whether or not a work survives the inevitable minefield of style and taste ahead, it may not survive the passing of time itself. Past masters spent many years learning their trade, from grinding the pigments to priming the canvas, but the works of today's artists are often so badly crafted that they may not last the decade, never mind the century.

Consider, for instance, the work of Anselm Kiefer, which can fetch \$300,000 (£185,000). His paintings of dark, threatening fields largely consist of bundles of straw pressed with fervour into the surface. Not surprisingly, as straw

is meant for cattle fodder and birds' nests rather than art, his paintings have a distinct tendency to mould. Meanwhile, the cups and saucers pressed into his paintings by the millionaire American, Julian Schnabel, respond to gravity in a more abrupt way, while the surface of the works — as complex as a ploughed field, and almost as big — act as a magnet to dust.

British offenders include many art school graduates, taught by a generation of conceptual artists for whom the idea is all: who cares about the craftsmanship? Favourite effects include mixing oil paint with wax or stepping paint on top of photographic paper. Richard Deacon is world-renowned for his elegant bent-wood abstract sculpture. With internal stress very much a theme, the work appears to have an inbuilt booty trap. If it were to "mould" — and the Tate admits some works are already cracking — it would be against the artist's principles to remake it.

Another artist, Tony Cragg, who is known for his colourful work from contemporary urban detritus, recently produced a series of geometric shapes scribbled on with crayon, which tend to fall over and get smudged. Anish Kapoor anoints his geometric shapes with neat, powdered pigment which, as one collector says, "comes off on your fingers and

When your Kiefer moults straw all over the carpet, or bits of crockery fall off the Schnabel, do you lament the loss of craftsmanship or revel in their contemporary fragility?

Sarah Jane Checkland on restoring today's art for posterity

clothes, not to mention on the other works in your collection".

The London restorer John Bull has strong opinions on the subject. He is a specialist in contemporary art, and repaired the vandalized portrait of the Princess of Wales at the National Portrait Gallery. "There's so much stuff that's badly painted," he says. "Private collectors are taking enormous risks when they buy."

On one occasion Bull found himself scouring china shops for materials to replace the crockery which had fallen from a Schnabel painting while in transit. "I measured the circumference of each piece, and then had a plate-smashing session in the studio." He is now so disillusioned that he has gone back to restoring work by earlier artists who used traditional techniques.

But there is no one to take his place. Although restoration of contemporary art is a growing business in New York, there are hardly any practitioners here, apart from Lord Dunluc and his team at the Tate. The country's three specialist teaching centres — the Hamilton-Kerr, the Courtauld Institute and Galeshead College — concentrate on old masters: altogether sturdier prospects.

Bull says it is no use going back to the artists. "If they're creative, they move on and don't want to churn out the same things. Artists make lousy restorers." Some highly successful artists, such as Schnabel, have staff on hand to mend the breakages, but they are the exception.

Experimentation in art has a long and generally respectable history, starting with Leonardo da Vinci, who used an impermanent oil technique for "The Last Supper" in Milan: the result is tragic deterioration, leaving the masterpiece a much restored ruin today. Sir Joshua Reynolds forbade his students to stray from the rules, but could not himself resist artistic alchemy, mixing wax resin and bitumen to obtain an instant old-master look. Soon clients were complaining that the portraits were ageing faster than their living subjects. Today, we are left with travesties of Reynolds's original intentions.

During this century experimentation has been both pragmatic — Picasso and the Cubists could not afford proper materials, scribbling instead on tablecloths in their cafes — and ideological — intent on sending up the Establishment, the Dadaists were interested in neither prices nor permanence.

But those were the days of pre-hype, before the art world started competing with the rock music business. Now we have a dangerous situation in which the tradition of experimentation coincides with the expectation of big money. Artists like Joseph Beuys (the most bankable artist in the world before he died last year) consciously produce work with a self-destructive element. His famous "Fat Chairs" consist of slabs of animal fat on the seats of chairs, and are now said to smell evil and rancid.

Nowadays, when an artist makes his name, dealers tend to quarry his output retrospectively, pouncing on any old cast-off from the past. "People start off when they're young and don't care about anything," John Bull says. "Their materials are cheap. They get into the way of using anything to hand. But when they become rich and famous, anything they've done takes on enormous value."

There are also huge problems facing the market in abstract painting of the Fifties and Sixties. Take the New York School — artists like Mark Rothko and Morris Louis, whose colours have faded so much that the pictures in coffee table books are becoming more accurate colour references than the actual works.

The catalogue for the recent Mark Rothko exhibition at the Tate Gallery even explained the extent to which his works are beginning to crack up. He was not interested in durability, but experimentation.

Moreover, because the works consist of large, single blocks of colour, one accidental bump can spoil them for ever. John Bull explains: "Whereas small damages like that can be absorbed into an old master painting, with these you have to recreate the whole."

To enter the realm of recreation in this way is to risk crossing the ethical line between restoration and straight faking.

When the original has changed colour irreparably, the colour-fast fake threatens to become more authentic.

Some experts get over the problem by revelling in the evolutionary, almost biological nature of this art. "You should take them as they are," contemporary dealer Nigel Greenwood says. "If the straw falls off a Kiefer, then you're minus a bit of straw. I think artists can get constipated if they're just designing for posterity." Kiefer himself is reputed to have said: "If your work is important in 20 years' time, they'll somehow find a way of restoring it."

Another major dealer, Nicholas Logsdail, renowned for putting British contemporary sculpture on the international map, says he prefers to keep his eye on the future. "If an artist makes a piece of work I don't think will survive, I say gently, 'I'm happy to show it, but I won't deal with it, and I send it back to the artist.'" He explains how the first examples of Anish Kapoor's work cracked up. "He took them back and remade them at no cost to anyone. Now they are structurally very sound."

Now people are arguing that it is high time art schools included old-fashioned craft skills in their curricula, so that students can adopt materials in the full knowledge of their effects. They should be taught frame-making and how to prepare the canvas, and given some chemical tuition in which combinations of materials are durable and which are not. Likewise, our restoration colleges should encourage students to consider the challenges that contemporary culture has thrown up.

Among the reasons for the critical acclaim of the newly emergent Scottish school of painters is its members' adherence to traditional methods. Whereas English art schools wiped life classes from the curriculum in the Sixties, these continued without a break in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Nicholas Logsdail suggests that potential collectors should insist on protection in the form of some guarantee from the vendor. "It would be reasonable to ask for a statement that, in the opinion of

the gallery, the work is well fabricated, and should any significant deterioration occur during a short period of time, the gallery agrees to be responsible," he says. "If the gallery refuses, the buyer can get suspicious and not buy the thing."

Surprisingly the work of Frank Auerbach — oil paintings which, when seen in cross section, look like mountains of paint — is stable. But as the materials are pure, and the work is usually protected by a glass box, it is assured a long future. So is the work of Francis Bacon, whose somewhat wilful method of painting on the reverse side of the canvas is actually very permanent.

A major effect of this fragile era of art is the dramatic divergence of private and public collecting policies. The more daredevil private collections — most famously that of Charles and Doris Seacraft, which includes both Kiefers and Schnabels — are amassed accord-

ing to personal taste. Public collections are much more cautious: the Tate Gallery vets each purchase for durability, and most are either reinforced or treated on arrival. In recent years, the Tate has refused to buy a Tony Cragg because it was made from solid wood. A John Walker painting was rejected because the artist had marked the surface with chalk.

Unless artists undergo a major change in attitude, there will soon be little left to show for this exciting era. Instead, the more conservative, institutional collections will be the only surviving witnesses to the age.

Art '87, aimed at the commercial and industrial community but open to the public, is at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 (01-800 1234 or 01-439 4090), September 10, 11 and 12. For information on available contemporary art restorers ring the Museums and Galleries Commission, 7 St James's Square, London SW1 (01-839 9341).

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A sandwich course  
in healthy eating  
— see page 17

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Healing hands: Roy Perry of the Tate works on a 1957 driftwood sculpture, "No 35", by Margaret Mews



Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

## TRAVEL

## TRAVEL NEWS

## Why the buck stops over there

Hindsight in the form of a sonorous report from the Economist Intelligence Unit claims that prices had as much to do with last year's drop in American visitors to Europe as fears of terrorism.

Choosing Holiday Destinations - The Impact of Exchange Rates and Inflation says that about half of all recent changes in travel patterns can clearly be attributed to price effects such as fluctuations in exchange rates, national rates of inflation and air travel costs.

On economic grounds, US travel to Europe could have been expected to drop around 15 to 20 per cent in 1986, says the report.

## Highland fling

Mid-week rates cut the cost of domestic skiing this winter. Scottish skiing's own 32-page brochure produced by the Highlands and Islands Development Board quotes prices inclusive of equipment hire and lift passes. There are transport options from every corner of the country. Hi-Line: 0349-63434.

One lone traveller who shuns singles clubs and single room supplements alike may approve Magic of Italy's latest effort on their behalf. Single rooms are available at no extra charge for mid-winter breaks in Venice, Florence and Rome. Prices from £187 for three nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Marial Strand in Rome, inclusive of flights and transfers. A seven-night holiday costs from £255. Details: 01-743 9555.

## Free ski lessons

Blandishments currently offered by travel firms include four free lessons on a ski trainer for everyone booking a continental ski holiday at Thomas Cook. The lessons are worth £20 and the trainer is a skiing treadmill machine. Forty of these high-building task masters are being installed in sports equipment shops throughout the country.

Anyone booking a Great

New Zealand Deal holiday through Pickfords travel shops is being given a Black & Decker Stowaway travel iron and hair dryer set.

A winter weekend excursion rate of £99 for a car and four passengers travelling to Ireland is available on different terms from two ferry operators: B&I Line (01-734 4681) and Sealink (01-834 8122).

## Ready, steady, go

The new Let's Go guide to short breaks in England during autumn, winter and spring is out now and it is free from Tourist Information Centres, or by post from English Tourist Board, Let's Go, 2 Cater Road, Bishopscote, Bristol BS13 7TW. (0272) 217917.

Beat the ticket touts and see the shows with Trust House Forte's London Breaks programme. A two-night weekend break at the Cavendish Hotel with stalls or dress circle tickets for Phantom of the Opera or Les Misérables costs £107.75 per person. Prices for other hotel and show combinations start at £56.85. Reservations: 01-567 3444.

## TRAVEL BOOKS

I shall pack a copy of the new Blue Guide to Corsica (Adam and Charles Black, £8.95) for my return to that vivacious island. I shall enjoy its architecture, its sites and sights all the better for Riana Giani's guide. There is no hint here of the splendours of Corsican fish soup or the fireworks set off on Napoleon's birthday. But then diligent travellers will have no difficulty finding such frivolities for themselves.

A Burlington Beadle barred my way into his arcade the other day. He was not going to let me lower the tone of his posh Piccadilly premises by wheeling my bicycle past all that cashmere, even though the cycle in question is quite new and shiny. Visitors to the capital who want to know more about beards and bargains, pearly kings and swanmeets may care to consult Traditional London, a rather thin volume for £2.35, published by the London Tourist Board.

S.C.P.

Correction: the telephone number for Tailor Made Ski Holidays is 0225 859598.

## In the footsteps of St Francis



Michael Watkins

visits Assisi, birthplace of the founder of the Franciscan order. Here he shares an ice-cream with a nun who takes him on a guided tour of this place of pilgrimage



Stairway to a shrine: pilgrims and tourists climb the steps of the Basilica, built in 1226, to see the tomb of St Francis (below)

mine we cut down to the Oratoria di S. Francesco Piccolini where a Latin legend read: "In this oratory, once the stable of a bull and a donkey, was born St Francis, light of the world". Beneath it is reputed to be the house where the saint spent his childhood.

We stood in a room, possibly the kitchen, and I asked Sister Theresa if she was particularly aware of sanctity on this spot. "No," she replied, "perhaps I'm cold - people do become emotionally moved here, but I just feel that there are lots of saints mothers in kitchens all over the world. What's the difference?"

In the Basilica of St Clare we stood beneath the crucifix, translated to its present position from St Damiano, which is said to have spoken to St Francis. "Vade Franciscus et repara domum meam" ("Go, Francis, and repair my fallen house"). The figure nailed to the cross was not of the tortured Christ, but of a figure

in triumph. "You see," explained Sister Theresa. "He is already risen."

She took me to the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, dating from the 4th century, guilelessly plain apart from its rose-window with eight radiating compartments. She introduced me to a couple of tiny cooks who slave willingly for pilgrims at a hospice; and she walked me through a private garden of contemplation above Assisi's rooftops.

He didn't take me to the cathedral or other great wonders, feeling, presumably, that I'd find my own way. We walked, in that glue-eyed heat, for seven hours, and when she asked what church I belonged to and I replied that I didn't know, she said that I'd discover sooner or later.

I did find my way to the cathedral and other great wonders, but it is not about these that I'll write or remember. Instead I shall remember the



church of St Stefano, with its narrow windows and simplicity.

I shall remember buying bottled water at a mini-market in the Via S. Paolo, the shelves of pasta and soap powder receding beneath 11th century arches. I shall remember squatting on the steps of the 1st century BC Temple of Minerva, dodging the pigeon strafing and watching a cat among those pigeons, disdainful of them completely. What else would you expect in this town of St Francis?

Perhaps in time I shall

forget some of these things, but I like to believe that I shall not forget Eremita delle Carceri - The Hermitage. It takes, on foot, a good hour to get there, climbing towards Monte Subasio. Hermits lived there and this, after his conversion, is where St Francis came to meditate. It remains isolated and solitary, a maze of humble dwellings, grout and chapel, a cell containing the saint's stone bed.

There were few people about, more doves than humankind. The ancient ilex over a bridge there is known as "The Tree of Birds" in memory of St Francis's conversation with winged creatures. The tree, blackened, petrified-looking, was held together by iron stanchions; yet it was in bright, exuberant foliage. I didn't know what to make of that.

The following morning, on the Subasio's terrace, I breakfasted with an ordinance from Cuddesdon Theological College, near Oxford. Crumbling

our croissants, we asked each other what we liked most about Assisi. He said that despite the plague of tourists, no one raised his voice, that Assisi imposed this kind of restraint.

I, finding it difficult to articulate, said that I'd had an ice-cream with a nun. Shouldering his rucksack, he left to catch a train to Rome; that Assisi imposed this kind of restraint.

My journey, via Gatwick-Paris, then by Air France to Assisi (about three hours' drive) was "tailored" by the Italian holiday specialists Citilias Ltd, Marco Polo House, 3-5 Lansdown Road, Croydon CR8 1LL. (01-686 5533). I can warmly recommend them. Seven days at the Hotel Subasio (including flights, car hire breakfast only) is £485.

## TRAVEL NOTES

## FOCUS ON FISHING WALKING AND BIRDWATCHING

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## OUT AND ABOUT

As it needs is a church and a pub, and the illusion would be complete. Even without them, the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum looks much more like a village than anything you would usually associate with the word museum. A village, that is, where nobody lives and where the 20th century never happened.

This is a unique collection of old buildings, ordinary "vernacular" dwellings rescued from destruction and re-erected, stone by stone and timber by timber, in glorious Sussex countryside. The buildings have come from all over the south-east, and most of them were dilapidated and on the point of demolition when the museum stepped in to save them.

Each building has been painstakingly dismantled by experts, who thereby learnt the secrets of its construction and history. Transported in numbered pieces to the museum site, it was then put together again — not, usually, as it was when rescued, but in its historical "essence", stripped of later disguises.

A good example is the conspicuous red and white corner house, which came from North Cray in Kent. When rescued, it looked nothing like it does now. It was divided into a shop and two weatherboarded cottages with chimneys and stairs and internal partitions galore.

But at its heart was lurking a classic medieval hall-house and this is what the museum brought back into existence — a bare central hall open to the roofbeams, a two-storey bay at either end. The surprising red paint on the outside timbers is authentic too.

There are more than 30 buildings on the site now and nearly all of them can be fully explored inside and out. Nothing could give a clearer picture of how houses were built — and no introduction to the subject could be more enjoyably fascinating. Children can find as much to interest them here as scholars of vernacular architecture.

Near the centre of the "village" are a pair of ponds, complete with hungry ducks and greedy fish, and between the two stretches of water a working mill. The wheels go round, and the flour —



Saved from the past for the future: some of the restored buildings in a village setting at the Weald and Downland Museum

## Cottage industry in preserving time

**Nigel Andrew visits a collection of historical homes rescued from demolition or decay and rebuilt in an open-air museum**

stoneground, wholemeal, top-notch stuff — comes pouring out into the bins. You can buy a bag of it as a souvenir or, if you're serious, a whole sack. A young and not very medieval-looking miller keeps the mill grinding away.

Each building is different, of course, but also differently presented. Some show nothing inside but the bare bones.



Past glories: young visitors clamber over an old farm wagon

Others have reconstructed interiors, giving some idea of what they were like to live in. A few, like the toll cottage, even have mock-ups with figures, but this is no Merrie England theme park. As you wander round you might find a demonstration of spinning or a man at work turning out miniature horsehoes.

Strolling away from the

"village centre," with its market hall and row of fine timber-framed houses, you pass a tiny school building, reconstructed right down to the desks and slates and inkwells. It reminded me rather of my primary school in the 1950s, but of course it is a 19th-century building; the museum is by no means limited to the medieval.

As the museum grows, so it seeks to give an ever fuller picture of life before the industrial and agrarian revolutions. The big project of the moment is a history of farming exhibit, centred on a lovingly reconstructed medieval farmstead. This enterprise, a joint venture with the National Farmers' Union, will be completed in time for British Food and Farming Year in 1989.

Meanwhile, the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum remains one of the best days out in the south. But do allow plenty of time — there is vastly more to see and do than you might at first think.

The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, near Chichester, Sussex, is open until the end of October daily 11am-5pm. From Nov to Mar, Wed, Sun and Bank Holidays, 11am-4pm. Admission £2, children £1.10. Tel: 0243 63 348.

## IN THE GARDEN

## In full Bloom—the work of a lifetime

Gardeners foolish enough to doubt the accuracy of the photographs in the Bressingham Gardens catalogue should take a trip this weekend to the gardens of the Bloom family at the small Norfolk village of Bressingham, where many of the plants pictured are growing for all to see.

It was there that I met Alan Bloom, the nursery's founder. Though semi-retired this two sons now manage the business, he is still involved in propagating specialized plants and making field trials.

He was perhaps the strongest influence in promoting the plants I love best, the hardy herbaceous perennials, bringing them out of a position of neglect into the prominence they enjoy today. It was early evening when we met and he was still working, astonishingly spry for his 80 years. He had just come from hand weeding his cherished trifoliums. He rejects any notion of "a favourite plant" but these double wake robins, or wood lilies as they are known, have maintained their spell on him for 30 years and he will expend infinite time and care to coax them into growth.

The large graceful flowers bloom snow-white above the dark triple leaved foliage. He brought his first nine plants of *Trifolium grandiflorum* from Canada and worked patiently to build up his stocks to 27 plants in five years. He then spent 15 more years before he could offer a few for sale. There are still far more customers clamouring for them than he can possibly satisfy.

Over the years Alan Bloom has planted a garden of five acres around his Georgian house. Full of plants, the Dell Garden acts both as a trial ground and as a showpiece (with a grassy avenue thoughtfully paved with benches and tables for picnicking visitors).

He has been an innovative influence on garden design in his powerful advocacy of island beds with their large contoured shapes cut out of the lawn for the growing of perennials.

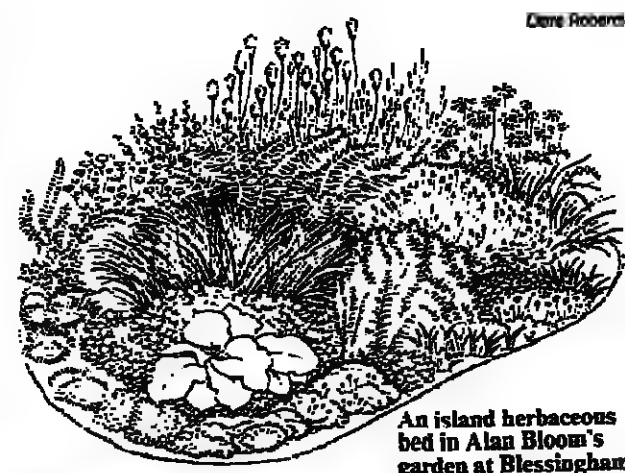
This weekend Bressingham celebrates a "special garden open weekend" when Alan Bloom's garden (and steam museum) and the famous five acres of conifer and heather gardens of his son Adrian will be open to visitors.

**Francesca Greenoak**

● The Dell Garden/Steam Museum is open Sundays 11.30am-6pm until September 27; admission £1.50; children 4-14, 80p; senior citizens £1.20.

● This weekend, two gardens and museum; Saturday reduced rate £2 per car (nursery railway only running) Sunday, usual charges.

● Bressingham Plant Centre, open daily 10am-5.30pm (10.30am Tues), is well worth a visit as it has stocks of unusual plants not always included in the catalogue.



An island herbaceous bed in Alan Bloom's garden at Bressingham

### OTHER GARDENS TO VISIT

**TODAY**  
**Califfness:** Castle of May (HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother), old walled garden; 2 to 7pm.  
**Oxfordshire:** Highmoor Hall, 6m NW of Henley-on-Thames; off B481 to Reading at Nettiebed; 6 acres, trees, shrubs, herbaceous borders, walled vegetable garden; 2 to 6pm.  
**TODAY AND TOMORROW**  
**Hertfordshire:** Hopley's Garden and Nursery, 5m from Bishop's Stortford on B1004 in centre of Much Hadham; 3½ acre garden, trees, shrubs, herbaceous and alpine plants, island beds, many unusual and rare plants; 11am to 6pm. Daily.  
**Fife:** Falkland Palace Garden, 11m N of Kirkcaldy off A912; fine trees and shrubs, herbaceous borders; colourful greenhouse; until September 30. Monday to Saturday 10am to 6pm, Sunday, 2 to 6pm.

**TOMORROW**  
**Somerset:** Barrington Court, NE of Ilminster; garden constructed in 1920, walled ins, rose, and lily gardens; 2 to 6pm.  
**Hampshire:** Southwood House, Itchen Abbas, 3¼m E of Winchester; 1½ acres, herbaceous plants, shrubs, fruit trees, greenhouses, much of interest; 2 to 5.30pm.

Roy Hay

### WEEKEND TIPS

● Tie in the new young growth of climbing plants, especially roses and Clematis, which have been blown about.  
 ● Plant daffodil bulbs as soon as you can get hold of them.  
 ● Collect seed from herbaceous plants, store in a cool dry place in paper envelopes and label carefully with species and date.  
 ● Begin the methodical process of weeding your garden thoroughly to get it clean for the winter and minimize weed problems next year.

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### OUTINGS

**MIDHURST STEAM RALLY AND GOOSE FAIR:** Steam and agricultural exhibitions and displays. Old time fair ground, tug-of-war, jazz and folk music and a flying circus. Cowdrey Ruffs, Cowdrey Park, Midhurst, West Sussex. Today, tomorrow, 9am to 6pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.50.

**FINCHCOCKS FESTIVAL:** Opening day of the annual music festival with an entertainment in the garden. Popular 17th and early 18th century country dances and tunes played on original instruments. Finchcocks, Goudhurst, Kent (D580 211702). Today 2.30pm onwards. Admission £5.

**18TH ESTATE VINEYARD WHITE FESTIVAL:** Opportunity to taste some of the best English wines. Also a chance to look over this small vineyard and see an exhibition of winemaking processes and equipment. English Wine Centre, Drusillas Corner, Alfreton, East Sussex. Today, tomorrow, 12 noon to 6pm. Admission £4.75, includes eight tastings and a souvenir glass. Child under 14 free.

**COUNTRYSIDE CAVALCADE:** Heavy horse championships, country dance festival, dog and rabbit shows, theatrical competition, craft stalls and antique fair. The Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Today, tomorrow, 10am to 6pm. Adult £1.50, child 50p.

**SALISBURY FESTIVAL OPEN AIR FAMILY SPECTACULAR:** Dancers and drummers from the African troupe Aziz. Circus costumes and traditional tribal songs and dances. Cathedral School Playing Fields, The Close, Salisbury, Hampshire. Today, 3pm. Adult £3, under-14s £2.

**Judy Froshaug**

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Jan 10

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## THE TIMES COOK

# Sandwich course in healthy eating

Just as the delicatessens of New York feed its hungry workers at lunchtime, and the *rosticceria* feed Milan, so have city sandwich bars become a national institution in this country.

Until recently, I worked just around the corner from the best one in London. The Mayfair Pasta and Sandwich Bar has gained a huge following. You have to be there soon after noon if you do not want to queue halfway down Davies Street, in the West End.

Apart from the pleasure of being served by four cheerful Italians, what makes the place so tempting is its heavenly sandwiches: crabmeat and egg salad; egg florentine, a clever mixture of chopped, cooked spinach and egg mayonnaise; avocado and prawns; chicken and avocado; tuna fish and sweetcorn...

But they also make the classics, such as smoked salmon in brown bread, with just a hint of lemon and a grinding of black pepper and - my favourite after the egg florentine - rare roast beef on granary bread.

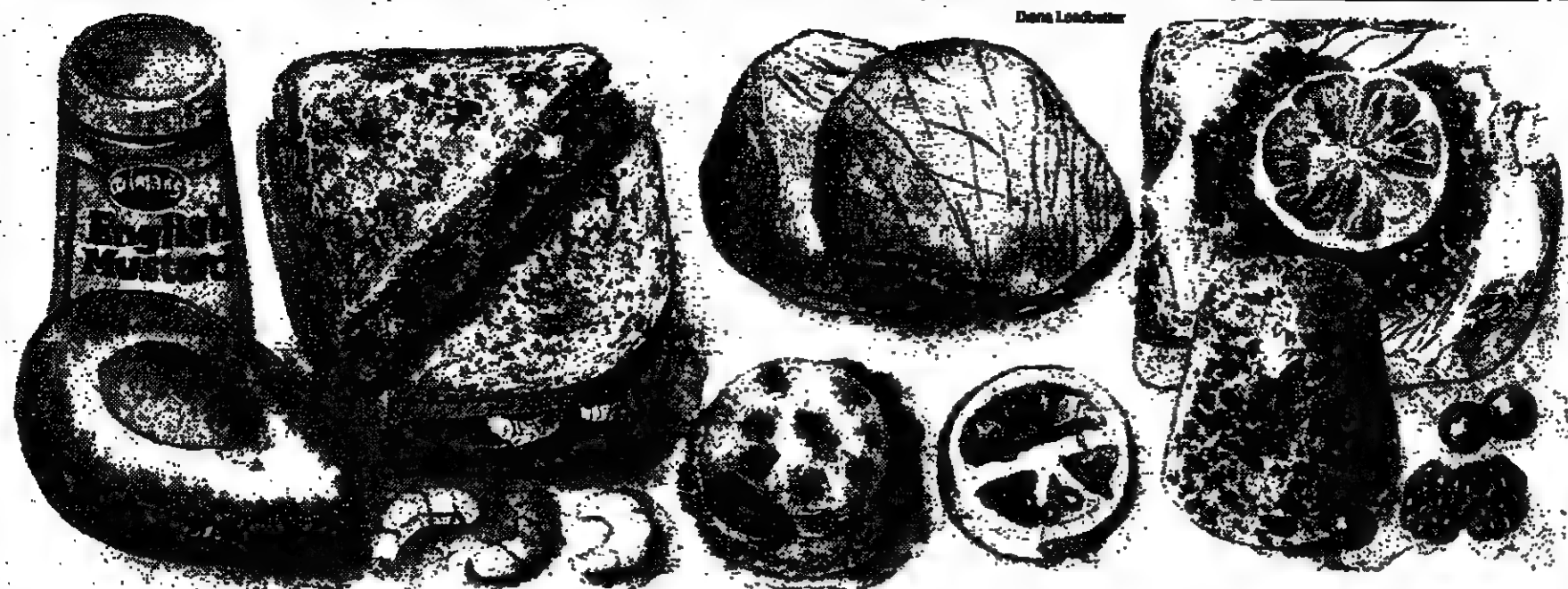
On balance, I think that sandwiches made with "real bread" and plenty of filling are the best possible fast food, convenient to eat if you're in a hurry, nourishing and appetising, and far better than a soggy carrot salad in a carton or a greasy hamburger.

For those not near the best sandwich bar in London, good sandwiches are still the best bet for the lunchbox. Good sandwiches do not necessarily mean roast beef or smoked salmon.

But remember that smoked salmon is a very ideal for sandwiches are often available at a quarter of the price of smoked

Many families will be returning to work or school next week after the summer holidays.

Frances Bissell suggests some filling, economical and tasty snacks for the lunchbox



Diana Lonsdale

salmon. Plenty of salad leaves, topped with some smoked mackerel mashed with yoghurt, and covered with thinly sliced orange, make a cheap and delicious sandwich. An omelette made with one egg, flavoured with herbs and cheese, makes another.

Why not make, at the beginning of the week, a small quantity of spread from equal parts of softened butter, thick Greek yoghurt and mild cheddar cheese. With the addition of chives, mustard,

chutney or sesame paste, blend the lot in a food processor. The spread can then be put in a china bowl and kept in the refrigerator.

Sandwiches using up yesterday's roast make a good economical meal. Or, for those at home at lunchtime, perhaps something on toast: those office lunches from the sandwich bar would have been perfect if they could have occasionally included cheese on toast, or mashed sardines and mustard on toast.

**Toomatoes and goat's cheese on toast**  
(Serves 4)  
4 slices wholemeal bread  
4 tsp mustard  
16 tomato slices  
salt and freshly ground black pepper  
1 goat's cheese log (6oz / 175g), thinly sliced

Toast the bread on one side. Spread the untoasted side with

mustard and lay the tomato slices on top. Season with salt and pepper. Place back under a hot grill for a minute or two, then lay the cheese slices on top of the tomatoes and grill until golden brown and bubbling.

Goat's cheese can, of course, be replaced by other types: my other favourite for this is farmhouse Lancashire.

**2½lb / 1½kg fillet of beef**  
4 tsp olive oil  
2 tsp wine vinegar  
1 tsp clear honey  
1 tsp Angostura bitters  
1 tsp soy sauce  
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce  
4 tbsp crushed peppercorns

Trim any fat from the beef. Mix all the liquid ingredients and brush these on the beef. The meat can be

marinated overnight or cooked after it has stood, covered, for an hour to absorb the flavours.

Wipe off any excess liquid, and fry the meat all over in a well-seasoned or non-stick frying pan. Then roll in the crushed peppercorns, pressing them well into the meat. Place it on a rack in a roasting pan, and roast in a preheated oven, gas mark 7, 220°C / 425°F, for 20 to 30 minutes. Leave it in a warm place for 10 to 15 minutes before carving.

**Individual summer puddings**  
(Makes 4)

14oz / 400g prepared soft fruit: blackcurrants, raspberries, raspberries, blackberries (a mixture of these, or just one)

2oz / 50g sugar

4 to 6 slices of bread

Use empty yoghurt or cottage cheese cartons which are handy for packing into lunchboxes. They also make delicious little puddings for a dinner party.

Rinse the fruit, put it into a saucepan and sprinkle with sugar. Heat gently until the juices begin to run. Trim the crusts from the bread, cut out four small circles to fit the bottom of the containers, then cut the rest of the bread into wedges the same length as the depth of the containers.

Strain the fruit and quickly dip the pieces of bread in the juice. Being damp, they will now be better shaped to line the containers. Divide the fruit among the four bread-lined containers, and press down a little. Any fruit left over can be rubbed through a sieve and used as a sauce or in ice-cream. Cover with remaining bread, moisten with more juice, cover with cling film and chill in the refrigerator.

## EATING OUT

## Seasonal game for a laugh

Overhung, overcooked, overpriced, overrated: these are four characteristic attributes of the grouse as it is habitually found in Britain. The wretched creatures are more interesting as target practice than as meat and belong more to folklore than to gastronomy.

The culpable party is, as usual, that dreary institution called British cooking whose traditional method of dealing with this bird seems to have acquired the authority of a law carved in stone. Otherwise imaginative chefs obey this law of roasting to the point of desiccation and stopping up bread sauce as though on pain of penal servitude. To them any new recipe is a shy at the British Way Of Life.

One chef prepared to risk obloquy is Nicholas Ruthven-Stuart of Fifehead Manor near Andover. Ruthven-Stuart wrote to me to suggest that Geddes in Southampton is not the only first rate restaurant in Hampshire. He didn't sound particularly modest and, as it turns out, he doesn't have much to be modest about: his is a fine kitchen.

It is a kitchen in a rather high league than the restaurant it serves. There is a marked gulf between the cooking and the dining room of this otherwise comfortable hotel: the dining room is glumly lit and drearily decorated in the manner of a tea shop.

It doesn't much matter I suppose, but it would take very little to transform it into a stage worthy of the kitchen's achievements which include the best grouse I've eaten. Mr Ruthven-Stuart's treatment of it was a revelation. The bird was spatchcocked, char-grilled, its breast served off the bone, and given a judiciously gauged and delightful sauce of

**Jonathan Meades has a grouse about the way the British cook wild fowl, but finds one restaurant where the dish was excellent and another where it was difficult to keep the bird on the plate**

Madeira. There was also a bread sauce which had as much affinity to the usual abomination of that name as Anton Mossman's bread and butter pudding has to *that* of abomination.

The meat was just the gamy side of mild and reasonably rare. It was served with some notable vegetables: a tomato topped with pesto and finished under the grill; a light and savoury timbale of courgette, cheese and egg; a potato gratin with a hint of mace. There were more good vegetables with an outstanding lamb fillet in a lovely rosemary sauce - purées of celeriac, carrot and something dark green which may have been spinach, may have been kale but which in either case was agreeable. These dishes were preceded by a salad of scallops and slightly overcooked sweetbreads and a "charlotte" of carrot and chervil with a watercress sauce.

Sweets here are sumptuous. A £1 supplement to the £16 set



**'Dry-cleaners must adore this dish! It is virtually impossible to eat without soiling one's clothes'**

confection called toffee pudding. The cheeses are to be avoided; they arrived straight from the refrigerator and in poor condition. The coffee, too, is dismal. The wine list reinforces the impression that what is not under the direct control of the kitchen is of a distinctly lower grade than what is.

A grouse here cost £18 which is two pounds more than the entire set meal which included grouse at Fifehead. It was done in the traditional manner - the whole roast bird being plucked on a plate along with a decent gravy, a tasteless spoonful of cooked bread-crumbs.

How the dry-cleaners of Mayfair must adore this dish! It is virtually impossible to eat without soiling one's clothes with grease - a 2ft square napkin affords little protection. As an example of this cooking method, it wasn't bad; it was not overcooked and the meat wasn't high. But the crudeness combined with a tendency to slobber about the plate when breached with knife and fork and to drip into one's sleeves when picked up is tiresome. So meagre a dish is simply not worth the bother.

A dish of quails brought with it the same problems but this at least was quite interesting, or rather its sauce of kirsch and blueberries was. Another decent if rather simpler sauce had accompanied a starter of artichoke heart stuffed with woodland mushrooms. The starter I ate was not impressive - it was a less than sprightly "savourin" of salmon, scallop and turbot in an unremarkable *feuilleton* with a sauce which could have done with about three times the amount of dill it actually contained.

The sweets were much better than one expects from a large trolley and the cheese was excellent. But then at this sort of price everything should be excellent.

Fifehead Manor: Middle Wallop, Andover, Hants (Andover 0254 701565) 12 noon-2.30pm and 7.30-9.30pm every day.

Dukes Hotel: St James's Place, London SW1 (491 4840) 12.30-2.30pm and 6-10pm every day.

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Bad news from Bordeaux. Due to poor weather, the 1987 crop has suffered from both *coulure* (when the grapes fail to form properly) and *millerandage* (when the grapes fail to ripen properly) and although the quality will not be known until the end of this month, when the grapes are picked and the wine made, the quantity will certainly be considerably lower than the growers were expecting.

Baron Eric de Rothschild from Lafite expects the yield from his Bordeaux properties to be down by a quarter or even a third. The owners of lesser châteaux have been saying much the same.

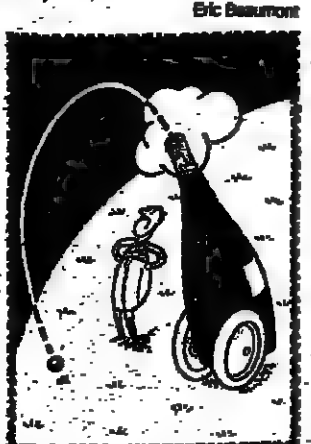
But it is as bad as it sounds? With so many large Bordeaux vintages in recent years, plus a backlog of wine still to be drunk, perhaps the 1987 harvest will bring a little sense back into Bordeaux's high prices. As usual we will have to wait until the spring to see how the Bordeaux merchants and growers react.

## Bordeaux blues and some bargain reds and whites

would we all like to drink this month?

Top of my list of refreshing white wines to cool us in hot weather and also to make useful fish or first course wines is Winecellars' excellent Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine, the '86 Domaine de l'Ebeaupin.

I am not a great fan of Muscadet, finding it often dull, acidic and aggressive. This reasonably priced Muscadet, however, is none of these things. Instead it has a delicious, slightly toasty bouquet, backed up by a clean, fresh, flowery taste with all the lemony bite you would expect of this appellation. Priced at £3.39, it may not be the cheapest in the land but for a white wine with this class and flavour it is a splendid buy.



(Winecellars, 153-155 Wandsworth High Street, London SW18; The Market £3.65)

More impressive still from Winecellars is the '85 Bourgogne, Clos de Chenôves,

from the Buxy co-operative in the Côte Chalonnaise, just south of the Côte d'Or.

The splendid ripe, smoky scent of this wine stems from its vinification and maturation in oak. Behind its oak-influenced bouquet there is lots of youthful fruit and it is the combination of these two flavours on the palate that makes it so worthwhile. Priced at £5.55, it also happens to be one of the cheapest introductions to the genuine taste of a great white Côte d'Or burgundy that I know (Winecellars; The Market £6.15).

Bargain champagne sounds unlikely, but The Champagne House, 15 Dawson Place, London W2, has just brought out a late summer offer with

proper discounts of up to £1.67 off a bottle on four of their Blanc de Blancs and rosé champagnes. My favourite is Albert Le Brun's non-vintage Blanc de Blancs, the star wine in this Avize house's firmament, with its fine, smoky bouquet and big, rich, full-flavoured palate. Priced at £10.50 per bottle - 90p off the current list price - this non-vintage Brut is highly recommended.

September also deserves some red wine recommendations and my bargain buy this autumn is the same as that of last year: Sainsbury's amazing Arrida, a Portuguese red wine, only £1.89 for the full 75cl bottle.

Very sensibly, Sainsbury's have bottled all their wines in this size, having phased out the old 70cl bottle well in time for the change in the law. From January 1989 all table wines sold in the United Kingdom will have to be in 75cl bottles.

Jane MacQuitty



## THE ARTS

## Going for broke

What do you do when you find bumpy creditors hatching up your BMW to a tow-truck? Remonstrate? Faint? Call your solicitor? Of course not: you rescue your Filofax from the glove compartment even as the sleek machine is leaving your crumbling life.

A new drama serial about bankruptcy and its aftermath, *But* (LWT) strained so hard to make its points about wrong values that it was in danger of turning into the television equivalent of a Victorian moral painting.

Blond, pointing, entrepreneurial Neil (Paul Nicholas) took his grimly

## TELEVISION

tightlipped wife Sheila (Phyllis Logan) out to dinner for the first time in three months. Half way through their first glass of water, a telephone call whisked Neil away to a building site where the poured concrete he had sold proved to be 20 per cent slag. The shady Arab who had sold it to Neil proved to be less than accommodating. Later, his agents offered to relieve Neil's right hand of its fingers if he declined to fill in a fistful of digits on an Amex Gold form. Meanwhile, muttering of di-vorces, Sheila decamped. Maybe this is what comes of dining in pink restaurants whose greeters are called Philippe.

This slippery path to the bankruptcy court was potent enough as a dramatic mechanism, with roofs falling in at every step, the only wonder was that there was so little drama on-screen. Entire scenes were written in cartoon-bubble dialogue for the hard of understanding, and at times the expository literalness of the script reminded one of the dubbed version of *Chateaufort*. Indeed, when an aggrieved cab driver whom a penurious Neil had bilked of 50 pence told him, "You know what you are? You're a ponce", one expected a sub-title to flash up.

Some of the blame for this surely lies with the pernicious convention of introducing serials with a double-length first episode in the naive belief that the viewer, thus hooked, will come back for more. Quite the contrary: last night's opener would have been a lot more enticing at around an hour's length. Mr Nicholas, perhaps surprisingly given his limited abilities, is by no means miscast: Geraldine Alexander as the acidulous accountant looks set fair to act everyone else off the screen.

Martin Cropper

How do people feel when they find themselves transformed into characters in a novel? Catherine Bennett investigates

## When fiction is stranger than truth

Jerry Gude is a drunkard, a middle-aged juvenile delinquent whose self-regard ensures that his many vices remain on the contemptible side of pathetic. As the sodden wreckage of a once fashionable writer, he makes a diverting central figure in Jane Ellison's new novel, *Another Little Drink*, about books on a pompous Conservative weekly called *The Commentator*, but it would be sad to think that someone like him really existed. Jeffrey Bernard, the *Spectator* columnist, has recently concluded that the character is meant to represent himself.

"Michael Heath told me," Bernard said on the telephone from the Coach and Horses pub in Soho. "He came up to me, said 'I never realized you drank so much', and giggled."

But Bernard had not found it amusing. He raised his voice over the clamour of the pub, strikingly similar in its atmosphere to Ellison's *Dog and Biscuit*. "I don't mind," he said. "But she's got me wrong. I drink a lot but I'm not a nutcase. I've got my habit under control." He shouted across the bar to Norman Balon, the Coach and Horses' landlord, who many find reminiscent of Jane Ellison's abusive fictional publican, Galen Bone. "Have you read it? She portrays you brilliantly — she does a terrible job on me."

In the offices of *Private Eye*, the satirical weekly magazine where Jane Ellison spent several years writing the Street of Shame column, early proofs of the novel were scoured for traces which might lead to a living member of staff. All that could be found was a pair of spats, said to have caused some distress to an *Eye* employee called Christopher Sylvester, who not uncommonly wears them. Now Sylvester protests that he is quite indifferent to the supposed reference. "The character doesn't follow me in any other respect," he adds, and that "Jane Ellison was always the sort of person who is keen to stab you in the back."

In her innocuous study in

Chiswick, surrounded by pictures of a grinning baby, Jane Ellison laughs immoderately at the speculation and insists that none of the characters has a model: "I wouldn't see myself as inventing those sort of comments. I'm not trying to write about *Private Eye* because it's too much of its time. It's an ephemeral thing. I'm trying to draw something funnier and larger out of it all. A deliberate attempt to put people into books is a great mistake because after a year or so, the book is forgotten."

Those acquainted with the contributors of both *Private Eye* and *The Spectator* confirm that elements of several living journalists can be identified in each of Ellison's fictional individuals — which was perhaps still more irritating for her former colleagues than finding themselves lifted body and soul into immortality. "Of course I prefer to be mentioned rather than left out," Jeffrey Bernard admits. "I just think it's an amazingly inaccurate spoof." Jane Ellison laughed again; the laugh of an injured satirist. "If people say they see aspects of Jeff in that, then it's up to them — I don't really know Jeffrey Bernard very well."

With names which echo real ones, incidents which sound oddly familiar, and spats which intrude on the reader's notice as surely as Sylvester's do on the carpet of the Coach and Horses, Ellison's former colleagues can perhaps be forgiven their search for parallels. But her invitation to the ball is grudgingly given, compared with the welcome Clive James affords to any member of the Groucho literary who picks up his new novel, *The Remake*, which mocks, indulges and ultimately exalts the intrusion of fact into fiction. Some living celebrities — Clive Sinclair, Kingsley Amis, Donald Sinden — are awarded parts under their own names. Others, veiled by humorous sobriquets, are granted walk-on roles at parties, with only their fictional

irrelevance to suggest that someone, somewhere finds their presence amusing.

"We had a game in the office to see who could get the most," announced a publicity girl from Cape, James's publishers. "It's a new way of reading a book!" If you knew where to look, she said, the novel was "packed full of people": Craig Raine, Pat Kavanagh, Julian Barnes, Martin Amis, "and Clive James is there three times!"

Like one of his imaginary representatives, James has retreated to Biarritz, leaving his publicists to speculate on whether he likes his readers to play Hunt the Original.

"I think Clive hopes that people will read it and enjoy putting names to the characters," said Pat Kavanagh, James's agent. "I don't think he's doing it to be obscure. He's noticed her own appearance as Joan Dankworth, the glamorous literary agent and wife of a famous novelist husband? 'Bloody hell,' said Kavanagh. "Thanks a lot. I don't recall thinking yes, that's me, but I suppose if I had thought it it's flattering to be put into print, even if the self is less than the self that you recognize."

She thinks it would be "contrary" of James to deplore the new game, but William Amos, who wrote a book called *The Originals: Who's Really Who in Fiction*, remembers James being "less than forthcoming" on the humans he deployed in *Brilliant Creatures*.

Only Tom and Miriam Stoppard (Tim and Naomi Stripling in the novel) appear in Amos's directory, a transformation confirmed by Peter Langan, who identified an entire passage featuring the married geniuses as a dinner party held by James in Langan's *Brasserie*, with only a little hyperbole to distinguish it from the original incident.

"It's true, I did make a romantic pass — not an obscene one — at Meryl Streep," Langan said, clearly indignant



that James concludes the episode with "Flaherty", the foul-mouthed restaurateur, carried from the scene by his waiters. "That's bollocks. That is complete Clive James fiction; that is the difference between the truth and what Clive James turned it into." But Langan is inclined to forgive the liberty. "You lying Australian git!" The thing about Clive James is, he's under no illusions, he doesn't regard himself as a serious writer — does he?

D. H. Lawrence regarded himself as a serious writer; so, no doubt, did Pope, Tolstoy, Waugh, and Dickens. Characters from all their work appear in Amos's inventory. Stephen Spender, who is thought to have inspired three imaginary versions — one distinguished, one ignoble, and one plain ludicrous — suggests that the habit is unavoidable. "I'm about to publish a novel which draws entirely on real people, although it goes back to 1929. I think nearly all novelists draw on real people, but they have a different kind of power in transforming them in the course of doing so."

Unlike many novelists who regard the detection of originals as considerably more mindless and certainly more unworthy than spotting trains, Spender considers the practice "natural human curiosity". Even so, he said, it is quite reasonable for a novelist to

deny his sources, "because there is always a difference between the fiction, and a person who is alive, and going around altering their behaviour."

Julian Barnes may, or may not, be one of Clive James's originals. Either way, he is unlikely to find out. He does not read novels in that way. "It becomes sort of reductive, and you find yourself reading Evelyn Waugh thinking, 'Is that really Brian Howard?' — which I don't think helps either the reader or the writer." Waugh himself scorned the creature who read fiction as a "gossip column". But for the original spotters, the habit is oddly comforting: literary creation becomes wholly explicable — you just put your friends and enemies in books.

"What's sinister is how easy it was to turn into a novel," recalls Willie Donaldson, the writer who achieved fame through toilet books, of the process whereby an intended chunk of autobiography became a fiction (published in May): about an ageing writer of toilet literature, who loves and exploits a beautiful young junkie, turning their affair into a book. Its title, *Is This Allowed*, refers precisely to the moral dilemma of using human beings as literary raw material. Donaldson says it

to close the door on reality to have readers scrabbling for the key. Was his William Boot in *Scoop* based on Bill Deedes, former editor of *The Daily Telegraph*? No. But Deedes's real appearance in Waugh's *Abyssinian pensioner*, as a naive reporter with a quarter of a ton of luggage, appears to have given Waugh two ideas which have permanently fixed Deedes as Boot, if not Boot as Deedes. "There is this great fascination in people to find proof of identity," Deedes observes. "Maybe it's the same thrill you get from meeting somebody in *East-Enders*. I don't know."

Certainly the possession of two alter egos (for he is also taken for *Private Eye*'s Dear Bill) has done for his reputation what 50 years in journalism and 25 in politics never could. "It's absolutely transformed my social station," he said. "It puts you on Christian names with people instantly." Apart from accepting the invitations, Deedes is careful to debunk the myth, especially to his wife. "The stuff about that girl — Käthechen, was it? Well, nothing of that sort happened in Abyssinia. There was nothing half so interesting as that about, I can assure you."

Another *Little Drink*, by Jane Ellison, is published this week by Secker & Warburg (£10.95). Clive James's *The Remake* will be published next month by Cape (£10.95).

## A noble swan-song



John Huston during the production of *The Dead*: "Action for me does not mean car chases"

ing, attentive, witty and wise as he had ever been. At the end of the documentary Mrs Sievernich asks him awkwardly about the significance of the project at this stage of his life. He roars with laughter: "You asked me that very

nicely. What you really mean is when I'm so close to death myself. Oh... that doesn't matter."

The gaunt Dublin house that Joyce recalled from 1904 was recreated in a warehouse in the Californian desert; but

you never question the authenticity.

"Action for me does not mean car chases," said Huston. Most of the story takes place in the parlour and dining room in the course of a party given by the Misses

Morkan at Epiphany. The action and the characters are faultlessly orchestrated. The carving of the goose is as compellingly eventful as any car chase; the suspense lies in the tension between the characters. The Irish cast — notably Dan O'Herlihy, Donal Donnelly, Marie Kean and the exquisite Cathleen Delany — are impeccable in their timing and comedy.

Perhaps Huston was the only director who could have comprehended Joyce's own very Irish conjunction of joyous farce and melancholy philosophy; or have brought off the poetic ending of *The Dead*. Gabriel and Gretta (Donal McCann and Anjelica Huston) leave the warmth of the so-called evening to be confronted with dark vistas of mortality and eternity, as Gretta recalls the Galway lad who died for her at 17 and Gabriel has his own foreboding of death. Joyce's words continue over a montage of shots of the bleak wintry plains and graveyards; and finally there is only the snow.

It is as magical as it is mysterious. Few artists have made their exits with such majestic grace as John Huston.

David Robinson

## Mixing past and present

## CONCERTS

LS/Parrott  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

realize why a thoroughly modern composer such as Bartók should look upon it with such favour.

His idea of getting other contemporary composers to make arrangements of a short Machaut piece to start these concerts here reached Anthony Payne, whose *Alleluia* and *Hockets* seemed to me a vivid and enjoyable way of bridging the gap between the old and the new.

Here the original *Hockets* runs through the new piece simultaneously at three different speeds.

A small instrumental ensemble is used, the same as for Stravinsky's *Mass*, and so the links proliferate as we also get

just the sort of rhythmic impetus that has recently started to appear in instrumental performance of early music.

At this point there was a solo interlude. In quite another vein, Rohan de Saran played two cello pieces by Xenakis, entitled *Nomas Alpha* and *Kottos*, both restless and rapid pieces, both extreme in their use of the instrument. It was quite difficult to tell the difference between them.

With Stravinsky's *Mass*, however, the theme resumed and the Taverner Choir brought the programme full circle: an unashamedly 20th-century work, performed with rhythmic precision, right tempi, clear-toned and unromantic choral singing.

Are these, as some would say, the stylistic ideas of today that are being applied to the music of the past?

Richard Fairman

## A weakness revealed

Israel PO/Mehta  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Whereas Bruckner's Ninth Symphony was a "song of praise to Our Lord" his Eighth was dedicated to a mere earthly potentate, Emperor Franz Josef; and Zubin Mehta made sure we knew it. His reading of Bruckner's most complex and expansive symphony — some, including the composer himself, would say his finest — was sturdy, earthbound, in short reductive.

"Dead-end music," came a muttered comment to my right. Last night it was. Idiosyncrasies of instrumental blend, dynamic level and ensemble on which my colleague commented when reviewing the Israel Philharmonic's Wednesday performance can be masked, even transmuted by cunning showmanship in Mahler.

Not so in Bruckner. If a conductor is not willing to acknowledge that the work's purposes are inherent in every second of pacing, rhythm, harmony and orchestration, and that Bruckner functions



Zubin Mehta: flawed direction

less by recall than by genesis and evolution, then no prodigality of energy will count for more than a puff of air.

It was not as if a core, at least, of the orchestra, did not seem to feel the music deep in their bones. Time and again the ear was delighted by the quality of string playing, in the centre of the third movement: the sweetness of a violin, the grace of the violas, the warm weight of the cellos and — despite current opinion — the eloquence of the woodwind.

But Mehta led as some in their early days are taught to

read a score: follow the line with the tune and the rest will slowly and surely drift into focus.

Not so surely though: there were some hefty landings as the opening material was set out, and some perversely flip-pant phrasing in the scherzo. It was this bell-chiming movement which revealed most crudely the flaw at the heart of Mehta's direction.

His approach was essentially one of cause and effect, of comparison and contrast, and that has little to do with Bruckner.

He glanced over the structural significance of cadence upon cadence, for instance; he underestimated the way in which harmony itself shaped the phrasing, and he let his unruly day-glo brass players have their head.

It was a disappointing showing for an orchestra hardly lacking in character and spontaneity of response. They, and their audiences, deserve both more disciplined and more penetrating direction than this.

Hilary Finch

## Death in the family

## THEATRE

Curtains  
Hampstead

celebration for Ida, 86 years old and tormented by the cooing attention of her two daughters. Gwen Nelson gives Ida the raised brows and slowly focusing eyes reminiscent of Ralph Richardson catching the first hint of something nasty emerging from the woodshed.

Though physically and mentally falling apart, the resolve she brings to the act of blowing out the candle on her cake suggests a longing to have the same thing done to her life.

Sure enough, while the focus moves briefly on to the third sister, back after 25 years away, the place it comes to rest is on the member of the family

who extinguishes Ida's life. The issue is euthanasia. Should we kill someone who wants to die?

The arguments advanced are not novel but the author gives emotionally telling speeches to Alfred Lynch, and to Bridget Turner whose performance as the stricken daughter Katherine is exceptionally touching and accomplished in its timing.

What is more, the dialogue frequently becomes explosively funny: listlessly circling sentences as characters steer clear of the unmentionable.

Not every character need be given a background speech, and the play would be improved by trimming (direction is by Stuart Burge). There were amusing performances by Ralph Nossack as a lily-livered husband and Sheila Ballantine.

Jeremy Kingston

Rosebery's

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## REVIEW

Sublime  
ApocalypseCLASSICAL  
RECORDS

Schmidt: Das Bach mit  
sieben Stücken. Soloists,  
Vienna State Opera Choir,  
Austrian RSO/Zagrosek (Orfeo  
S 148 862 H, two black  
discs, also on CD)

Franz Schmidt's great oratorio  
of the Apocalypse is the  
Germanist of Austria, similar  
in its unequalled achievement  
and in its failure to travel,  
despite pockets of  
enthusiasm here and in America.  
Composed in Vienna in  
1935-7, it emerged terribly  
close to the nearest earthly  
imitation of apocalypse yet.  
However, the saving grace of  
the work is that it is not at all  
concerned with contemporary  
relevance, which would be  
more than distasteful.

There is, rather, an extraordinary  
innocence to it, expressed  
in the casting of St John as a youthful tenor (Peter  
Schäfer is utterly convincing  
in being almost constantly

surprised by what he sings  
about), in the wholly unironic  
references to the Passions and  
pastorals of Bach, and in the  
decisiveness with which massive  
figures and arias are  
launched.

At times it can sound like  
the musical equivalent of a  
Disney cartoon of the Last  
Days, but there are moments  
too, of violent, many-layered  
affirmation, when Schmidt  
approaches the sublime.

Lothar Zagrosek is not inclined  
to have quite enough  
patience with him: tempos are  
brisk and rhythms angular,  
where softer moulding might  
be beneficial. But the choral  
and solo singing is excellent.  
Robert Holl is sonorous as the  
bass Voice of God; Carolyn  
Watkinson is a real creamy  
contralto in her important  
solos; and Thomas Moser and  
Kurt Rydl, in a tenor-bass  
duet, find echoes of Britten as  
well as Elgar in this wifal  
masterpiece.

Paul Griffiths

## Alive again

## ROCK RECORDS

The Grateful Dead in The  
Dark (Arista 208564)  
Self-Killer Soro (Stern's  
Africa STERNS 1020)

In *The Dark*, The Grateful  
Dead's first studio album for  
seven years, has broken on an  
unexpecting American market  
with all the quiet momentum  
of a seventh wave borne on a  
current of nostalgic euphoria,  
and has already become the  
group's most successful release ever.

"While the public's tastes go  
up and down in cycles, we're  
just like the median line that's  
running right through that,"  
said the Dead's bassist, Phil  
Lesh, in a recent interview,  
tacitly acknowledging that  
such sudden mass acceptance  
is certainly nothing to do with  
any change of formula in the  
group's music.

A collection of old-fashioned  
country-rock songs like  
"Touch of Grey" and "Hell in  
A Bucket" are informed by

good-natured sentiments  
about the intention to  
"survive" while "enjoying the  
ride". Whether playing light,  
pleasant country-boogie as on  
"When Push Comes To  
Shove", or getting hip to a  
more imaginative folk song  
like "Throwing Stones", the  
group's music is now a easy  
unmistakable familiarity.

Self-Killer, an African male  
from Mali, is a singer who  
has enjoyed popular success  
in Africa since 1970. His  
album, *Soro*, gives the lie to  
the idea that such "ethnic"  
music is necessarily of a  
traditional or backward-looking  
nature.

Boasting a superlative 48-  
track digital production, and a  
cast of thousands — percussionists,  
horn sections, synthesizers,  
backing vocalists — the album  
is a delightful blend of  
cyclical African jazz-funk  
rhythms (roughly in a  
Mann Dibaagay vein) and  
Ketta's high, raw vocals.

David Sinclair

## Quality showcase

## JAZZ RECORDS

Stan Sulzmann & John  
Taylor: Everybody's Song But  
My Own? (Loose Tubes  
LTLP 004)

Stan Sulzmann's performance  
throughout *Everybody's Song  
But My Own?* makes clear the  
cost of taking for granted the  
talent of this young veteran,  
who became a fixture on the  
British jazz scene in the early  
Seventies.

In Wayne Shorter currently  
extracting sweeter lyricism  
from the soprano saxophone  
than Sulzmann achieves during  
the modal shifts of "Introduction  
to No Particular Song". Is Chico  
Freeman matching the emotional  
precision on display in the  
gorgeous "Old Ballad"? Could  
Eddie Daniels surpass the  
woody elegance of his clarinet

on the Spanish-tinged  
"Gigolo"?

Maybe, and maybe not. The  
fact that the questions arise in  
the listener's mind at all is  
tribute enough to the quality  
of Sulzmann's performance in  
this series of duets with the  
pianist John Taylor, whose  
clear touch, alert brain and  
occasional bursts of highly  
relevant athleticism animate  
10 compositions by the trumpet-  
player Kenny Wheeler.

Low-key but highly sophisticated  
assemblies of glancing  
melody and graceful structure,  
Wheeler's tunes have long  
deserved such a showcase, and  
this set — produced by the  
musicians themselves, supported  
by the Arts Council and  
released on Loose Tubes' burgeoning  
label — was a  
singularly happy notion all  
round.

Richard Williams

## PAPERBACKS

The Life of Katherine Mansfield,  
by Antony Alpers (Oxford Lives series,  
£5.95)  
George Eliot, by Jennifer Uglow  
(Virago Pioneers series, £4.99)

The histories of George Eliot  
and Katherine Mansfield  
disprove that old chestnut  
about suffering being necessary  
for the production of  
great art.

George Eliot's happy and fulfilled  
life with Lewes produced a series of  
complex and profound novels, while  
Katherine Mansfield's suffering  
merely prevented her from developing  
her clever, but rarely more than  
lightweight, short stories into something  
much greater.

Lack of money, particularly towards  
the end when she had to pay for  
expensive treatment for her tuberculosis,  
forced Mansfield to waste her  
energies on trivial stories for immediate  
sale to popular magazines instead  
of concentrating on her art, or Art, as  
she would have put it.

Alpers' *Life of Katherine Mansfield*  
was first published in 1980, and is now  
reissued as part of the new Oxford  
Lives series. The tale he has to tell is  
not a very uplifting one.

Katherine's early life was a series of  
short affairs, an even shorter marriage,  
an abortion, a miscarriage. Her  
claim to have found "true love" with  
John Middleton Murry (once  
described as England's "best hated  
man of letters") had a somewhat  
hollow ring.

Murry's main failing was his utter  
selfishness — a characteristic of which  
Mansfield was only too aware. He  
once wrote her a letter, supposed to be  
an expression of love and contrition,  
after she had complained of his  
negligence, in which he wrote so much  
about himself that Mansfield went  
through the letter underlining all the  
"I's". Their frequent declarations of  
undying love never sound genuine. It  
was something they desperately  
wanted to believe in, but it was, rather,  
like their constant harping on the  
theme of being Artists, a pose.

The latter part of Mansfield's life is  
an even sadder tale of disease and  
loneliness — her search round Europe  
for a health-giving climate, her struggle  
to find the strength to work, and all  
the time cut off from Murry because  
he couldn't leave England and his  
career as editor (his career as poet and  
novelist having never really got off  
the ground).

It is an intriguing portrait of  
Mansfield, but Alpers fails to make



Tales of two lives: George Eliot (left) found true love; Katherine Mansfield claimed she had, but died sick and alone

the other characters really come alive  
in comparison. The cast is, however,  
illustrious — but what an unsavoury  
lot frequented the English literary  
scene at that time: the petty malice  
and snobbery of the Bloomsbury set,  
Bertrand Russell's two-faced fibbing,  
D. H. Lawrence's mentally un-  
balanced venom.

It is a relief to turn to what, at this  
distance anyway, seems like a more  
admirable figure. Not that Eliot's life  
was entirely free from scandal; she did  
after all run off with someone else's  
husband, and after Lewes's death she  
had a bizarre marriage to Johnny  
Cross, 20 years her junior. This  
marriage was cut short by her death  
after seven months — although it  
was nearly cut a lot shorter during

their honeymoon in Venice, when  
Cross threw himself out of their  
hotel window into the Grand  
Canal. Her liaison with Lewes was,  
however, based on long-lasting, mutual  
love.

Jennifer Uglow's book is part of  
the Virago Pioneers series, re-  
evaluations of the life and work  
of a wide variety of women in  
the light of recent feminist  
literary criticism and historical  
research. It is a sympathetic and  
illuminating appraisal, particularly as  
Eliot's writing does not fit easily into  
any feminist canon.

Despite having gained respect as an  
intellectual and writer, recognizing  
and resenting the disadvantages

women suffered, she could not, for  
example, join her friends in supporting  
women's suffrage. For the most  
part she saw herself as an exception to,  
rather than an example of, what any  
woman could achieve.

In her novels she is often criticized  
for never giving her heroines the  
opportunities that she could see  
women about her grabbing all the  
time, and which she herself grabbed  
when she packed her bags and left  
Coventry to seek her literary fortune  
in London.

Uglow tackles the paradoxes in a  
fascinating study of Eliot's writing and  
life that should send you scuttling  
back to re-read her novels.

Annabel Edwards

## NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

## FICTION

August in July, by Carlo Gaddis (Penguin, £3.50) Old Polish  
exile in London falls apart with sadness and loneliness.  
Before She Met Me, by Julian Barnes (Picador,  
£3.50) Historian obsessed with the steady past of his new wife.  
Ferry, by Lillian Cooper (Virago, £4.50) Bright Yorkshire girl  
grows up emotionally and politically in Fascist Italy.  
Starting At The Sea, by Julian Barnes (Picador, £3.50) Life  
and times, with wit and cleverness and philosophy, of clever  
country girl growing up into tough old age in the year 2020.  
Soldiers in Hiding, by Richard Wiley (Picador,  
£3.50) Japanese-Americans at war on the wrong side. Sharp and  
funny about both nations and opposing cultures.

## NON-FICTION

Kipling's English History, by Margherita Laski (BBC,  
£3.95) Kipling's assorted views on English history and life,  
unusually glossed by Margherita Laski.  
The Last Days of Hitler, by Hugh Trevor-Roper (Penguin,  
£3.95) Spectacular, scholarly account of the nightmare.  
The Latest Country Houses, by John Martin Robinson (The  
Bodley Head, £8.95) They carried on building them after the  
Second World War. In spite of the general impression.  
Pictures and text of 200 new houses and changed style of life.  
The Life of St Teresa of Avila, by herself, translated and  
introduced by J.M. Cohen (Penguin Classics, £4.95).  
The Translator's Art, essays in honour of Betty Radice,  
edited by William Radice and Barbara Reynolds (Penguin  
Classics, £6.95) Our star translators on their mystery and art,  
in honour and love for the modest, meticulous, marvelous  
woman who popularized the classics for our generation.

## Sweet and sour

The Machinist's  
Underclothes, Essays and  
Occasional Writings 1958-  
1986, by Germaine Greer  
(Picador £3.95)

Germaine Greer says that her  
published essays have altered  
between frivolity and  
bitter animadversions. But  
which are which? Where, for  
instance, do we place the  
following statements?

"The law is not concerned  
with right and wrong."

"Any criminal knows that  
the police will manufacture  
evidence that they cannot  
find."

"Marijuana is basically a  
good habit — better than  
alcohol."

"Frivolous or bitter, do you  
suppose? If it all sounds rather  
like the school-playground  
talk of the Seventies,  
Germaine does try to seem  
more grown-up in her advice to  
feminists. They will never  
reorganize society, she tells  
them, until they have reorga-



Relenting: Germaine Greer  
sized their own sex lives. In  
the meantime, she shows them  
how to cope with society as it  
is.

Most doctors, she warns her  
readers, are not interested in  
women's bodies, so it is better  
to visit the lecherous ones who  
have been struck off for being  
too interested. No priests, she  
says, can be taken seriously,  
because they preach about  
things they have never  
experienced.

Motherhood, she adds, is a  
"bourgeois perversion" and  
monogamy is "the most in-  
comprehensible perversion of  
all". Just as I was getting  
accustomed to this notion, I  
turned a few pages and found  
the author contradicting her-  
self. "The most perfect love on  
earth," she writes, "is the  
wordless commitment of fam-  
ilies, which takes as its model  
mother-love — father-love is  
also essential to survive."

Kenneth Robinson

Charles and Di, by Organ

elled to Au Printemps in Paris  
with pictures of other mem-  
bers of the Royal Family,  
including Organ's controversial  
portrait of Prince Charles,  
for the store's British Month.

## Stratford who?

Although Joan Littlewood  
now spends most of her time  
in Paris, she still supports her  
beloved Theatre Royal, Strat-  
ford East, currently embroiled  
in legal controversy over plans  
to stage *Pork Pie*, the true  
story of a policeman who  
alleges corruption. Miss  
Littlewood, 70, keeps hearing  
"Stratford" mentioned on her  
radio with no indication of  
whether the speaker means  
East London or upon-Avon,  
and has penned several letters  
of complaint. As she points  
out: "Ours is Chaucer's Strat-  
ford, which is rather older  
than Shakespeare's."

Lynda Murrin

## CHESS

## Victor victorious

The Zagreb Interzonal, the  
third and last in the series of  
world championship qualifying  
events, has been won by  
that outstanding veteran, Victor  
Korchnoi. He dominated the  
splendid total of 11 points  
from a maximum of 16, a clear  
point ahead of his two co-  
qualifiers, Yasser Seirawan of  
the USA and Jan Elihnst (USSR).

In contrast to the fine  
performances of Nigel Short,  
Jon Speelman and John Nunn  
in their Interzonals, Tony  
Miles failed abysmally in Zag-  
reb, scoring a mere 6½ points  
and finishing 14th out of 17.

Korchnoi's play was as in-  
ventive and lively as ever, and  
he must certainly be one of the  
favourites for top honours in  
next year's Candidates' Tourna-  
ment set for St John in  
Canada.

Here is a sample of his  
vigorous style from Zagreb.

White: Korchnoi (Switzer-  
land); Black: Hulak (Yugo-  
slavia).

King's Indian Defence.

1 Nc3 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 d4  
3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d5 5 d5  
7 Bc2 Be6 8 e4 d5 9 e4  
9 Nc1 Nc6 10 Bc2

This move used to be  
frowned on by theory, since  
the White Queen's Bishop was  
held to be exposed on this



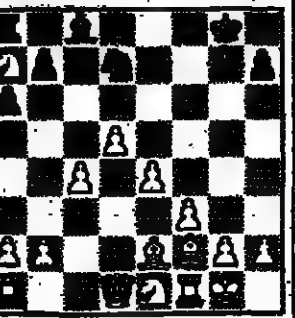
Inventive: Victor Korchnoi  
square to an onrush of Black's  
King's side pawns.

10... e5 11 f3 Nc6 12  
12 Bc2 g5 13 Nc5 14

An interesting concept  
which obliges Black to look to  
the defence of his "a7" pawn.

13... e6 14 Nc7

White threatens Nxc8,  
removing one of Black's most  
valuable units. But surely this  
excursion runs the risk of  
stranding a White minor  
piece? Hulak tries to exploit  
this possibility by sacrificing  
his Rook for White's Knight  
in order to lure White's



Queen's Bishop into a thicket.  
14... Nc7 15 Bc7 Bf6  
16 Bc4 Bc7 17 e5 dxc5  
18 Bc1

The tactical justification of  
White's play. If now 18... cxb4  
19 d6! or 18... Qa8 19 bxc5  
Nxc5 20 Rxc5! in both cases  
with positional advantage to  
White.

18... Nc7 19 Bc5 Bf6  
20 Bc4 Bc7 21 Bc5 Bc6  
22 Bc4

This demonstration does  
not help. Black is doomed  
since his Bishop on a8 is  
permanently incarcerated.

23 Nc3 g5 24 Bc2 Nc6  
25 Nc5 Bc6 26 Nc4 Bc7  
27 Bc2 Nc6 28 Bc1 Bc7  
29 Bc2 Nc6 30 Bc1 Bc7  
31 Bc2 Nc6 32 Bc1 Bc7  
33 Bc2 Nc6 34 Bc1 Bc7  
35 Nc4

Black resigns.

Raymond Keene

## BRIDGE

Rich  
pickings

America has undoubtedly  
wrested world bridge domi-  
nance from Italy, who for so  
many years appeared invinc-  
ible. It was a virtually in-  
evitable development, con-  
sidering the great number  
of top-class American players  
available. Superficially it is  
difficult to understand why  
the Americans suffered a  
string of defeats in the Seventies.  
It was partly attributable,  
of course, to the brilliance of  
the Italian Blue Team, but  
also to the way that American  
professionals were obliged to  
earn their keep. "Hired guns"  
is how Matthew Granovetter  
colourfully describes them,  
meaning that they play for pay  
with moderate players who are  
anxious to improve their Mas-  
ter Point status. As training  
for a World Championship it  
is as useful as a round of golf  
before the Open, because the  
"hired gun" must never  
stray outside his partner's  
modest repertoire, both in the  
bidding and the defence.

But a few years ago a new  
phenomenon appeared on the  
American scene: the individ-  
ual sponsor. He would hire a  
whole team to further his  
ambitions of winning the ma-  
jor events, and even the World  
Championship, which one  
sponsor succeeded in doing. It  
is a rich man's hobby, as he  
would have to pay each of his  
five players \$25,000 and ex-  
penses — quite nice pickings  
for about a month's work.

The American professional  
has to be well paid, to com-  
pensate for the lack of job

security. One famous Ameri-  
can player had been hired by a  
sponsor we will call Mr X. At  
the end of the season he  
received a telephone call from  
Mr X's secretary which started  
with the hoary old line: "I  
have two bits of news; which  
would you like first, the good  
or the bad?"

"The bad, I guess," said the  
pro.

"Mr X has reluctantly de-  
cided to dispose of your  
services for next year."

"And the good news?" en-  
quired the pro, manfully try-  
ing to conceal his  
disappointment.

"Mr X's daughter, Polly,  
has passed her exams with  
flying colours."

This year's World  
Championship takes place in  
Ocho Rios, Jamaica, where  
America will face a strong  
challenge from, among others,  
Brazil, Sweden and Great  
Britain representing Europe,  
and Pakistan, convincing win-  
ners of the Far Eastern  
Championships in Colombo.

Zia Mahmood, generally in  
fine form for Pakistan, had to  
bow the knee on this hand.

Far Eastern Championships:  
Pakistan v India; Love  
all.

Dealer: South.

W	N	E	S
Za	Lahti	Masood	Sharma
No	1:20	2:30	14:1
No	44	No	5:14
No	54	No	5

Opening lead 77

(1) Artificial, 18+

(2) Negative

(3) Wash pump

(4) Asking bid

Masood took the first two  
heart tricks and switched to  
the ♠. Colonel Sharma won  
with the ♠A, ruffed a heart in  
dummy (Zia discarding a club),  
and cashed two top  
spades before playing his  
fourth heart. To Sharma's  
surprise Zia ruffed. Sharma  
shrewdly inferred that Zia's  
reluctance to part with a club  
or a diamond marked him  
with high cards in both  
minors. Any legitimate line is  
doomed, so Sharma fell back  
on the "unloaded gun".  
Leaving the Ace of clubs in  
dummy, he returned to hand  
with the ♠K and ran his  
remaining trumps. At trick  
eleven Zia had to discard  
from the ♠Q and the ♠KJ.  
Mistakenly he threw the ♠Q,  
allowing the Colonel to make  
the last two tricks with the  
♠J and the ♠5.

Jeremy Flint

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1353

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two  
correct solutions opened on Thursday, September 10. Entries  
should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Com-  
petition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and  
solution will be announced on Saturday, September 12.

ACROSS

1 Visit briefly (4,2)

4 Showy (6)

7 Opinion (4)

8 Swamp tree (3)

9 Facade poet (5,7)

11 Light two-seater car-

riage (6)

12 Putrid (6)

13 Door smashing beam

(3,2)

14 Retort (8)

15 Nuclear reactor (4)

16 Rarely (6)

17 Wasteland (6)

DOWN

1 Volcano magma (4)

2 Excess drawing (9)

3 Poetic maiden (5)

4 Moulds, mushrooms

(5)

5 Blow missile (5)

6 Rough hut (5)

7 Sample (5)

8 Leather strap (5)

9 Additional play per-

iod (5,4)

10 Wound fabric (4)

11 Strike breaker (4)

12 Dwelling (5)

13 Tendency (5)

14 Kingdom (5)

15 Unclothed (5)

16 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

17 Tendency (5)

18 Kingdom (5)

19 Unclothed (5)

20 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

21 Tendency (5)

22 Kingdom (5)

23 Unclothed (5)

24 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

25 Tendency (5)

26 Kingdom (5)

27 Unclothed (5)

28 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

29 Tendency (5)

30 Kingdom (5)

31 Unclothed (5)

32 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

33 Tendency (5)

34 Kingdom (5)

35 Unclothed (5)

36 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

37 Tendency (5)

38 Kingdom (5)

39 Unclothed (5)

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(4)

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42 Kingdom (5)

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22 Kingdom (5)

23 Unclothed (5)

24 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

25 Tendency (5)

26 Kingdom (5)

27 Unclothed (5)

28 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

29 Tendency (5)

30 Kingdom (5)

31 Unclothed (5)

32 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

33 Tendency (5)

34 Kingdom (5)

35 Unclothed (5)

36 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

37 Tendency (5)

38 Kingdom (5)

39 Unclothed (5)

40 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

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42 Kingdom (5)

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18 Kingdom (5)

19 Unclothed (5)

20 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

21 Tendency (5)

22 Kingdom (5)

23 Unclothed (5)

24 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

25 Tendency (5)

26 Kingdom (5)

27 Unclothed (5)

28 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

29 Tendency (5)

30 Kingdom (5)

31 Unclothed (5)

32 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

33 Tendency (5)

34 Kingdom (5)

35 Unclothed (5)

36 Parliamentary constituency

(4)

37 Tendency (5)

38 Kingdom (5)

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SOLUTION TO NO 1352  
ACROSS: 1 Bamako 4 Denver 7 Rare 8 Brushoff 9 Entente  
11 Plait 12 Kaiser Wilhelm 15 Jiffy 16 Wrangle 20 Indigent  
21 Knot 22 Teller 23 Dynamo  
DOWN: 1 Berserk 2 Merit 3 Orbit 4 Daub 5 Violate 6 Re-  
fit 10 Needy 11 Polka 13 Infidel 14 Maestro 15 Joint  
17 Rated 18 Genoa 19 Dear

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Entries for The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword  
competition, published last week, must be posted to  
arrive not later than Monday September 14. There  
are five prizes of £50 and the winners and solution  
will be announced on Saturday September 19.



## THE WEEK AHEAD



## OPERA

**CIAO:** Suzanne Murphy, the Irish soprano, deserts her usual Italian repertory next Wednesday to sing the role of Rosalinde in the Welsh National Opera's new production of Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*. The operetta, sung in English, has a director from Berlin, Helmut Polixa, whose aim is to capture Strauss's satirical view of 19th-century Vienna. A week later Murphy will be back amid Italian colouratura in *An Evening with Adelina Patti*. WNO, Grand Theatre, Swansea (0792 475715), from Wednesday.



## CONCERTS

**TOP OF THE PROMS:** Claudio Abbado conducts the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra next Friday in Beethoven's Symphony No 9, which is performed by the penultimate tradition on the penultimate night of the Proms. The BBC Symphony Chorus and London Symphony Chorus are added, and the soloists include Karita Mattila, Alfreda Hodgson, Jerry Hadley and Robert Holl. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-589 8212, cc 01-589 8800), Friday 7.30pm.



## BOOKS

**BROUGHT TO BOOK:** Iris Murdoch's 23rd novel, *The Book and the Brotherhood* (published on Thursday by Chatto & Windus, £11.95) tells the story of a clique of Oxford intellectuals who have wild emotional lives. They subsidize one of the game to write a political book that may change the world, and then come to hate his doctrine. There is wife-stealing, abortion, Angst, a horrifying suicide pact, and much other melodrama, but written with such wit that you ignore the silliness.



## GALLERIES

**SCOTCH MYTHS:** John Bellamy's paintings always refer directly to his state of mind. Earlier works penetrate the psychology of fisherfolk on the Firth of Forth, where he was born, in the Seventies when he transformed his canvases into battlegrounds for fish and bird symbols. Lately, with improving fortunes, he has begun painting portraits with mixed results. An exhibition of Bellamy's work, including this self-portrait, is on show from today at MacLaurin Art Gallery, Ayr (0292 43708).



## THEATRE

**TAMER SHREW:** Jonathan Miller, making his debut as director for the Royal Shakespeare Company with *The Taming of the Shrew* at Stratford, has indicated that the play will not be seen as a "romp or a riot, but a serious and often comic look at the Elizabethan requirements of family life. It has nothing to do with women's lib — either for or against". Brian Cox and Fiona Shaw are Petruchio and Katherine. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 295623). Previews today and Monday. Opens Tuesday.



## CINEMA

**PRIVATE WAR:** Stanley Kubrick returns after to the screen after a seven-year absence with *Full Metal Jacket* (18), a meticulously filmed Vietnam War drama made entirely in Britain. Matthew Modine holds centre stage as an irreverent private undergoing the dehumanizing process of basic training and combat. Perhaps Kubrick has taken the edge off some of the material, but Kubrick's clinical eye for human behaviour is still second to none. Warner West End (01-439 0791), from Friday.

## THEATRE

## LONDON

## NOW YOU SEE ME/LIKE DOLLS OR ANGELS: SP

Springboard Company bring a double bill direct from the Edinburgh Fringe. *Now You See Me* is a comedy about two girls growing up; *Like Dolls or Angels* is about stunts and women. Young Vic Studio (01-928 6353). Opens Tues.

## PORK PIE: Vince Foxall's

play is based on a Kent CID officer's attempts to expose police corruption. Its production, before inquiries are completed, has been condemned by police spokesmen. Theatre Royal, Stratford East, Gerry Raffles Square, London E15 (01-334 0310), from Thurs. Press Night Sep 14.

## SOMEWHERE OVER THE BALKANS: Charabanc Theatre

Company (Belfast) in a play by Maria Jones about how violence has now become institutionalized in Northern Ireland. Drill Hall Arts Centre, 18 Chertsey Street, London WC1 (01-637 8270). Opens Tues.

## OUT OF TOWN

## BIRMINGHAM: Funny Peculiar: Page 3 girl Linda

Lusardi makes her stage debut in Mike Stott's comedy, with *Blue Peter* star Peter Duncan. Start of a national tour. Alexandra (021 643 1231). Opens Tues. Until Sep 12.

## CHELTENHAM: Doctor Faustus: Oxford Stage

Company begin a tour of the Marlowe play, directed by Richard Williams, with James Warwick (Faustus) and Bernard Bresslaw (Mephistopheles). Everyman (0242 527523). Opens Wed.

## GLASGOW: The School for Scandal: Giles Haverall

directs the Sheridan classic, the first in the new season. Citizens (041 429 0022). Until Oct 3.

## LEICESTER: Summer and Smoke: Frances Barber,

directed by Peter Lichtentale, in the Tennessee Williams drama, best known from the film version with Geraldine Page. Haymarket (0533 539737). Preview Wed. Opens Thurs.

## CONCERTS

## TWO PIANOS: Pi-Hsien Chen

and Pierre-Laurent Aimard offer a fine selection of little-performed items, including Busoni's arrangement of Mozart's Fantasia K 608 for mechanical clock. Liszt's *Réminiscences de Don Juan*. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800), today 4pm.

## DESCENDING FLOCK: A Flock

Descending into the Pentagonal Garden, by the colourful Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu, is heard from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle. So is Mahler's Symphony No 5. Royal Albert Hall, Thurs, 7pm.

## KENNEDY SWITCH: Nigel Kennedy

moves from his accustomed violin to viola for Walton's often poignant *Viola Concerto*. Rattle's complete *Daphnis et Chloé* follows. André Previn conducts RPO. Royal Albert Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

## BERNSTEIN/WPO: Leonard Bernstein

brings the Vienna Philharmonic to the Proms to play Mozart's Clarinet Concerto (Peter Schmid, soloist) and Mahler's Symphony No 5. Royal Albert Hall, Thurs, 7pm.

## NEW SEASON: The 1987-88

season in Wigmore Street begins with Elisabeth Söderström and Sarah Walker singing duets by Brahms, Dvořák and Rossini, songs by Robert Franz, Hugo Wolf, Debussy and Rachmaninov. Roger Vignoles accompanies. Wigmore Hall, 38 Wigmore St,

## FILMS

## OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE

(15): Two ladies, as alike as chalk and cheese, find themselves in love with the same man. Formula material, given a special sparkle by Shelley Long and Bette Midler. Directed by Arthur Hiller. Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111), from Fri.

## BUSINESS AS USUAL (PG):

Serious-minded British drama about sexual discrimination in a Liverpool dress shop, where Gloria Jackson is assistant manager. A first feature for writer-director Lezi-Ann Barrett, with John Thaw, Cathy Tyson. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527). Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148), from Fri.

## HELLRAISER (18): Full-

blooded British horror film, written and directed by Clive Barker from his own novel about a decomposed corpse trying to eat his way back to life. With Andrew Robinson, Claire Higgins, and Gore Gravel. Cannon Prince Charles (01-437 8161), from Fri.

## LES ANGES DU PECHÉ

(PG): Revival of Robert Bresson's first feature, made in 1943, a strange story of two women, a criminal and a nun, written by Jean Glimoux. With Renée Faure, Janet Holt. Everyman, Hampstead (01-435 1525), from Fri.

## RAY BARRETTO: The most

distinguished of all salsa percussionists invariably leads an incendiary band. *Town and Country Club*, 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-267 3334), cc 01-734 8932. Tomorrow.

## ITCHY FINGERS: Ingenious

saxophone quartet top the bill of a free all-fresco concert. Clapham Common bandstand, London SW4 (information: 01-822 6655). Tomorrow, 2pm-7pm.

## NEW YORK JAZZ: Interesting

quintet featuring the young Scottish saxophonist Tommy Smith, now in regular employment with Gary Burton. Ball Inn, Codicote, Herts (0438 92278). Tomorrow.

## BULL'S HEAD, 373 Lonsdale

Road, London SW13 (01-876 5241). Mon. South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, Berks (0434 484123). Tues.

## BILLY ECKSTEIN: Harlem

heart-throb of the Forties, inventor of the following "Mr S" shirt collar and possessor of a superbly burnished baritone. Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Friar Street, London W1 (01-439 0747). Mon to Sat.

## PETER CASE: The American

singer/songwriter performs his distinctive brand of mid-western folk/blues. Tonight and tomorrow. Mean Fiddler, NW10 (01-961 5490).

## SPORT AID '88: Curiosity

killed the Cat, Wet Wet Wet, Peggii & Shirlee, Erasure, Labi Siffre and many more in a big charity event to mark the launch of a year's activities for children in need. Tomorrow from 3pm, Queens Park Rangers, Loftus Road, London W12 (01-622 0900).

## THE JESUS AND MARY

CHAIN: Start of a tour for the four Velvet Underground-styled artists. Guildhall, Portsmouth (0705 824255); Tues, Rock City, Nottingham (0802 412544); Wed, Mayfair Suite, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (091 232 3103); Fri, Barrowlands, Glasgow (041 552 4801).

## MATHILDE SANTING: Dutch

chamber music with a cool jazz range. Thurs, Fri and Sat (12th). Bloomsbury Theatre, London WC1 (01-387 9629).

## OPERA

## ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA:

First night of Stephen Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures*, receiving its London premiere, is on Thurs (also Fri and next Sat) at 7.30pm: there is one reduced price preview left on Tues, also at 7.30pm. Meanwhile, ENO's revival of *Salome* is performed tonight and Wed at 8pm with Josephine Barstow in the title role and Mark Elder conducting. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

## WELSH NATIONAL OPERA:

Opening night of the new season and a new production of *Die Fledermaus* with Berlin-based theatre director Helmut Polixa making his British operatic debut. Grand Theatre, Singleton Street, Swansea (0792 475715).

## TELEVISION

## MEI I'M AFRAID OF VIRGINIA

WOOLF: Neville Smith as the unhappy polytechnic lecturer in the first of a season of repeated Alan Bennett plays. Channel 4, tomorrow, 9.15-10.30pm.

## DR WHO: Back for yet another

season and more camped up than ever, with Sylvester McCoy taking over the title role, Kate O'Mara as the villainess and guest stars from Richard Briers to Ken Dodd. BBC1, Mon, 7.35-8pm.

## SCOUT: Play by Frank

McGuinness based on the career of Bob Bishop, the Northern Ireland scout who discovered George Best. With Ray McAnally and Stephen Rea. BBC2, Tues, 9.30-10.30pm.

## ACTING: Simon Callow

conducts a masterclass on Restoration comedy. His main example is Sir John Vanburgh's play *The Relapse*. BBC2, Fri, 9.30-10.30pm.

## DANCE

## SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL

Ballet: Three weeks in the Big Top at Maidstone start the new season. This week's programme opening Tuesday is *Swan Lake* with Marion Tait, Miyako Yoshida and Leanne Benjamin taking turns in the ballerina role. The Big Top, Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent (0222 35203). Tues-Sat 26.

## GARY AGES: A new work

for his company, with music by David Sylvian and sculpture by Kate Blacker. Almeida Theatre, London N1 (01-359 4404). Tues to September 13.

## SCOTTISH BALLET: Split

into two equal groups to visit smaller towns. The Highlands tour continues to Fort William, Inverury, Aboyne, Elgin and Stranraer. The Lowlands Group visits Falkirk and Alloa. Both give *Les Sylphides* and modern works by Peter Darrell and others. Details from Scottish Ballet publicity office (041-331 2331).

## INDIAN SUMMER: Varied

programmes of dance in many styles from the Indian Sub-Continent at The Place (01-387 0031) each night, and tonight only at Riverside Studios (01-748 3354).

## PHOTOGRAPHY

## GEORGE RODGER: The

remarkable career of the veteran Magnum photographer, George Rodger, spans 50 years. He is best known for his African pictures, but there are many other sensitive pictures on show here, including many taken during the Blitz, and when he worked as a war photographer.

## The Photographers Gallery,

5 and 8 Great Newport St, London WC2 (01-831 1772). From September 11.

## PAUL TREVOR: "Constant

Exposure", conceptual photography exploring television as a powerful influence in our society. Sallis Gallery, 105 High Street, Edinburgh (031 557 1140). From Sept 11.

## FILMS ON TV

## I'M ALRIGHT JACK (1959): A

BBC Peter Sellers season starts with one of his richest comic performances, as the communist shop steward in a Boulton Brothers lampoon on industrial relations. BBC1, tomorrow, 3-4.40pm.

## ROMANCING THE STONE

(1984): First television showing for Robert Zemeckis's hit film with Kathleen Turner as the romantic novelist whose fantasies come true in the Colombian jungle. ITV, Thurs, 8-10pm.

## MOSCOW - A PRIVATE

VIEW: A rare opportunity to view recent paintings by Russian artists. Warwick Arts Trust, London SW1 (01-834 7856). From Wed.

## BOOKINGS

## FIRST CHANCE

## RSC AT THE BARBICAN:

Booking opens today for all performances from Oct 8, including opening performances of *The Winter's Tale* from Stratford; also *The Balcory*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Deathwatch*, *The Maids*, *The Art of Success* and *The Black*. Barbican, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 8891).

## REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

## Continued from facing page

## SATURDAY

## BBC1 WALES 8.30pm-9.30pm

Sports News Wales (with Grandstand) MONTY PAN: LAM 4.35-5.05pm Northern Ireland News (with Grandstand) 5.35-5.45pm Ulster News (with Grandstand) 5.45-5.55pm South and East (London) - Preview of autumn comedy. South and West (London) - Scottish News and Sport. All other English regions - Regional News and Sport.

## ANGLIA As Scottish excep-

tioned by Carlton: The Fall Guy 12.30pm-1.00pm ALF 1.05-1.35pm The Fall Guy 1.35-1.55pm The Fall Guy 1.55-2.15pm The Fall Guy 2.15-2.35pm The Fall Guy 2.35-2.55pm The Fall Guy 2.55-3.15pm The Fall Guy 3.15-3.35pm The Fall Guy 3.35-3.55pm The Fall Guy 3.55-4.15pm The Fall Guy 4.15-4.35pm The Fall Guy 4.35-4.55pm The Fall Guy 4.55-5.15pm The Fall Guy 5.15-5.35pm The Fall Guy 5.35-5.55pm The Fall Guy 5.55-6.15pm The Fall Guy 6.15-6.35pm The Fall Guy 6.35-6.55pm The Fall Guy 6.55-7.15pm The Fall Guy 7.15-7.35pm The Fall Guy 7.35-7.55pm The Fall Guy 7.55-8.15pm The Fall Guy 8.15-8.35pm The Fall Guy 8.35-8.55pm The Fall Guy 8.55-9.15pm The Fall Guy 9.15-9.35pm The Fall Guy 9.35-9.55pm The Fall Guy 9.55-10.15pm The Fall Guy 10.15-10.35pm The Fall Guy 10.35-10.55pm The Fall Guy 10.55-11.15pm The Fall Guy 11.15-11.35pm The Fall Guy 11.35-11.55pm The Fall Guy 11.55-12.15pm The Fall Guy 12.15-12.35pm The Fall Guy 12.35-12.55pm The Fall Guy 12.55-1.00pm The Fall Guy 1.00-1.15pm The Fall Guy 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berry, a recalcitrant schoolgirl, to whom Broughton apparently confessed. The gist is clear – childish and bad-grown-up behaviour contrasted with adolescent sombreness. But without proper context or sustained tone, events seem melodramatic, sometimes absurdly so. Outdoors, it can be enjoyed as colonial travelogue. Indoors, rent-a-party scenes of frantic necking do not convince as decadence, and the cast makes a hash of being upper-class. Lavish it is, mostly because of the locations. It looks a hybrid of *Tender Is The Night* and *Out of Africa*.

**Holly Aird and Denholm Elliott play British expatriates in Kenya in *The Happy Valley* (BBC1, 9.05pm)**

## CHANNELS

**9.25** *Rat Gaye*. Episode three of the Pakistan drama series.

**10.00** *Equinox: Hole in the Sky* (r).

**11.00** *The Waltons*.

**12.00** *Newsnight*. Includes a profile of the newspaper *Sunday Sport*: a report on army bullying; a review of the first night club on a train.

**2.00** *Chips 'n' Comic*. For the young (r).

**2.30** *James Frawley and Kung-Fu*. *Ali Ching Ping Kach*. The recral includes the T'ao Sonata in G major in which they are joined by Philip Moll on harpsichord and Moray Welsh on 'cello.

**3.05** *The All Ireland Hurling Final*. Gateway play Kilkenny at Croke Park, Dublin. Ger Canning commentates.

**5.05** *World of Animation*.

**5.15** *Newsnight*. Includes weather followed by *The Business Exchange*. Roger Haynes, owner of trout fishery business, asks the advice of restaurateur and entrepreneur Bob Payton on how to break even with his business.

**5.00** *Little Girl Goes to School*. Japanese animated film.

**5.20** *Celebrity Candid Camera* from Comedy. Shows practical jokes on celebrities.

**7.15** *Scene for the Planet*. The first of a new, seven part environmental series, presented by Jonathan Porritt. Tonight, Professor Jorge Fauriol, a town planner from Argentina, offers a radical approach to the problem of sprawling cities. (Crackle)

**8.15** *People to People: We're Not Mad... We're Angry*. A dramatized documentary about Britain's psychiatric system (r). (Crackle)

**8.15** *Mie! Mie! I'm Afraid of Virginia Woolf!*. The first of a session of six Alan Bennett plays. Neville Smith stars as an unhappy lecturer coming to a crossroads in his life with Thora Hird as his mother (r). (Crackle)

**10.30** *Films: Crime Stories* (1948, b/w) starring Brit Lancaster and Yvonne De Carlo. Drama about a man's quest for justice whose obsession with his ex-wife leads to his involvement in a robbery engineered by the British lower class. Directed by Robert Siodmak. Ends at 12.10.

[illegible]

**6.30** **Schumann and Brahms**  
songs: *Ruud van der Meer* (baritone), with *Rudolf Jensen* (piano). Works include Schumann's *Romances* and ballads (including *Bonnie's Lad*, Op 53 No 1); and selections from Brahms's *Eight Songs*, Op 58, and his *Eight Songs* Op 57

**7.10** **Believing Our Beliefs:**  
*R.A. Hodgkin* offers some new perspectives on belief and faith

**7.30** **Proms 87: part one.**  
CSO under *Simon Rattle*.

**Takemitsu (A**  
**into the pent**

Concerto No 25), in the interval (8.20), Natalie Whelan accompanies the CBSO

**8.40** Proms 87 (part two):  
Mahler (Symphony No 1)

**9.50** After a Night out with the  
Bachelors: David McFall  
reads out Butler

**10.10** Japanese Koto Music  
Old and New: played by  
Sawai Koto Ensemble

**11.35** Eastern European Flute  
Music: James Dower, with  
John Lenehan (piano)  
played by worked by Sopplier  
(Fantaisie pastorale  
Mongroise Op 26) and  
Enesco (Cantabile et  
Presto)

**11.57** News 12.00 Close down

**Sachs (3) The**  
**R.D.D. A Good Friend**

Charles Casley  
**7:30** The Cross and the Crescent: A history of the Crusades, with Malcolm Billings (r) **7:30**  
**8:00** News: Lexicon of Laughter, with Richard Anthony Baker  
**9:30** A Saturated Decline: Dame Shelley concludes her history of the cinema's mass **9:55** Weather  
**10:00** News  
**10:15** Discovering Brooklands: The history of the famous motor racing circuit, with John Burrows  
**11:00** Before the Evening of the Day: Issa evens Office of Compline  
**11:15** John Morgan on War (r)  
**11:20** RSC in Repertoire: This was Michael Redgrave's Romeo and Juliet, with Linda Cookson (r)  
**12:00** News: Weather  
**12:05** Above center **7:00**  
**1:00pm** Open University **7:20**  
**1:30pm** Foundation Total **7:20**  
**1:30** Science Focus **7:40** Technology  
**1:30** Science Focus **7:40** Technology  
**1:30** Education Matters  
**2:30** Morgan Civil War  
**3:30** 1215k1k/247m-VHF-90-  
**HF35.8**; BBC Radio London

**REQUENCIES:** Radio 1:1053kHz/288m;1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m;VHF-90.25; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF-82-95; LBC:1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF95.8; BBC Radio London: 458kHz/206m; VHF 94.9; World Service: MF 648kHz/463m.



# Bangladesh flood relief is 'totally inadequate'

## Government is urged to give £250,000 aid

By Paul Valley

An immediate emergency grant of £250,000 should be made by the British Government to help millions of peasants stranded in the worst floods Bangladesh has seen for 40 years, the British agency War On Want said yesterday.

Recent emergency aid from the Government and British relief agencies were totally inadequate, according to Miss Helen Allison, one of the War On Want officers who returned on Tuesday from a three-week tour of the inundated regions.

"The level of response to the Bangladeshi Government's appeal for help has been very poor. The British Government should make a quarter of a million pounds more available at once, and review the situation next week," she said yesterday.

She also criticized the Disasters Emergency Committee, the co-ordinating body which makes joint appeals in major disasters on behalf of Britain's five biggest overseas charities - Oxfam, Save The Children Fund, Christian Aid, Cafod, and the British Red Cross. "They have just not responded quickly enough," she said.

Officials at the Bangladesh High Commission in London have said the international response has been good. But aid workers in Dhaka yesterday revealed that, in private, the Bangladeshi Government is much more critical.

"They feel that they cannot say too much in public. The Government is not as stable as might appear and the politics of food in Bangladesh play a big part in the general political picture. Both the Government and the opposition intend to make significant political capital out of the present events", one senior Western aid worker said.

The Disasters Emergency Committee said yesterday that it would wait until next week before making a decision on whether to launch a major appeal. "By then our members hope to have a clearer picture."

Oxfam now has its entire development staff in Dhaka travelling in various parts of the flood-hit regions on a mission of assessment. "It is the second mission. As a result of the first, we set up nine feeding programmes which offered cooked rice and dhal in the worst hit areas of Dinajpur and Thakurgaon in the north and also in Pabna, Tangal, Rajbari, Sirajgonj, Natore and Netrokona," said Amanda Milligan, of Oxfam's communications department, yesterday.

"These began in the middle of last month. We have also

started a programme in 10 other areas providing chapati, cooked potatoes and spices, and basic health care. Our field workers are expected back at base this weekend and we expect to approach the (British) Government early next week with a proposal based on their findings."

The Irish agency Concern, which has one of the biggest emergency operations in the country, concentrating mainly on women and children, yesterday summoned its field director in Dhaka, Mr Philip O'Brien, to Dublin to report to the charity's council.

Mr O'Brien said: "On Monday I finished a tour of the worst-hit areas. Thankfully, the waters were receding in the north but they are still rising in the south. The main problem was the loss of crops. Some 2½ million acres of crop land have gone permanently. Everywhere people were living on embankments and high

roadsides with whatever they had been able to transport before the waters rose.

"In the worst area, Pabna district near the junction of the two major rivers, the flooding came early and has stayed a long time. It will be at least another three weeks before it recedes, maybe longer. As a result they have lost the two main rice crops."

Concern, which has already received a £30,000 grant from the British Government and £70,000 from the Republic, hopes to raise enough money for a major two-pronged initiative.

"We hope to be able to provide the seeds, fertilizer and agricultural cash credits for the quick planting of some wheat crops and early winter vegetables. We hope also to begin some food-for-work projects to assist with the reconstruction and repair of mud houses and the rebuilding of roads, embankments, culverts and small bridges."

"In a sense it is when the waters recede that the worst problems begin. There will be no grazing for the livestock over vast areas and there is the danger of tens of thousands of cattle being lost. This could be a disaster."

Last night, the British Overseas Development Administration said that, at the moment, the Government had no plans for further emergency aid.

Some £110,000 had been allocated and the British High Commission in Dhaka was in discussion with the Government there about the possibility of funds to assist with rehabilitation work.



A woman sits on the roof of her flooded home outside Dhaka to wash her family's clothes in the flood



Mr Sami Karmakar and his family are forced to live in the open air at Dharmat, 45 miles from Dhaka, after the floods washed away his home and killed his four-year-old son.

## King hint of IRA link with arrest near home

Continued from page 1

Their arrest six days ago came after military bases in Britain had been on alert for at least two weeks because of fears of a possible attack by the Provisional IRA against prestige targets.

The RUC had been warning throughout the summer that the Provisional IRA was intent on increasing its bombing campaign.

Mr King said the police were taking the matter "extremely seriously". He arrived at Parliament Buildings within the heavily guarded grounds of Stormont in a three-vehicle convoy but security at his other engagements yesterday did not appear to have been increased.

Mr King said: "People are looking for a more constructive way forward. I think the IRA are scared of that constructive way forward and of the closer links between the British and Irish governments and perhaps their interest in me is a reflection of that concern."

Asked whether this meant that he considered the Provisional IRA was behind the incident, Mr King said he would not comment further.

He said: "This matter is being taken extremely seriously by the police."

Since their arrest, the three, who gave police Dublin addresses, have refused to co-operate with detectives who have questioned them.

Wiltshire police suspected that an IRA reconnaissance team had been sent to England to investigate security at Mr King's West Country farmhouse.

If no charges are brought, the three - two men and a woman in their 20s - could face "exclusion" from Britain under the terms of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The police activity in Blackpool began after the Wiltshire police found a document which suggested that someone may have stayed recently in the town. The document is thought to have suggested part of an address.

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,454

#### ACROSS

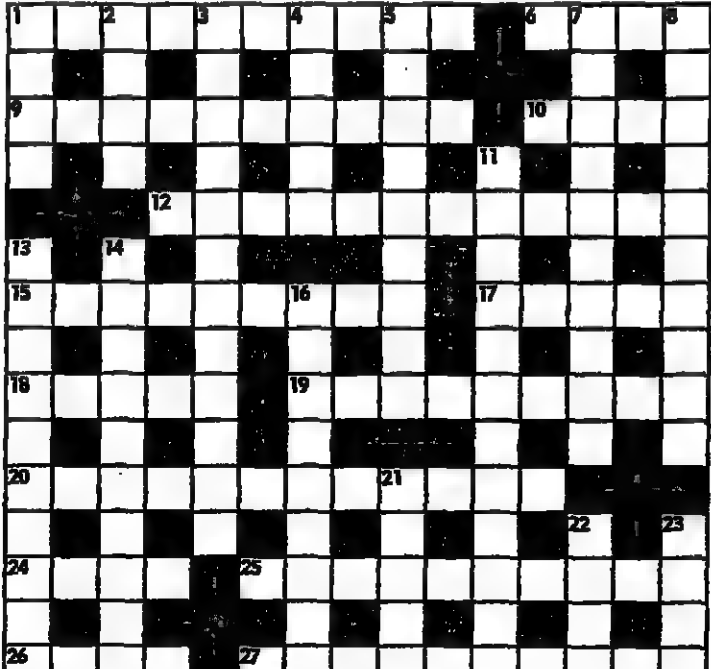
- Carefully sorted out, like Dawkins's takings (4-6).
- A block in the colon (4).
- Familiar greeting cut short by man from the landowners (10).
- Best in return game here (4).
- Having a lead, crew may use this to keep it (3-9).
- Sounds a foreign composer but for the big moustache (9).
- They lead prayers for single mothers (5).
- False horizontal (5).
- He assembles the other ranks after daily prayer (9).
- Sorting out the ethical hoops of intuitive religion (12).
- Spoil the game - start to throw (4).
- Putting two and two together, a Left supplementary (10).
- Affected by closure of atomic power unit (4).
- Birdies mean golf is fantastic (10).

#### DOWN

- Re-heated food in the mess (4).
- In France you and I show common sense (4).
- What have you in mind? This manual worker should know (12).
- Ionian island, half full with Corinthians (5).
- Get me a helper somehow - temporary will do (9).
- Cleaner comes by Tube, but won't go back in it (10).
- Critic looks unhealthy, eating rock in fleshy condition (4-6).
- Burning issue in film on the dale (12).
- Boy on unusually late in charge of postal collection (10).
- The screwdriver for some craftsmen (6-4).
- Side of the foot used for reverse (4-5).
- Did I omit a characteristic expression? No! (5).
- Remarkable Scottish university sergeant, say (4).
- A former railway charity (4).

Concise crossword, page 19

The national final of The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship will be held tomorrow at the Park Lane Hotel, London, at 1.30pm, admission £2.



#### Solution to Puzzle No 17,453

WELLINGTON SPAIN  
OCEANIC  
TRACTOR SERPENT  
ERECTOR  
RANGE KNOCKDOWN  
DANGER  
OVERSTRESS  
WAPITI  
NAME WITHDRAWN  
BERCAPITA WASTED  
MIDWINTER KITTEN  
MISLE KITTEN  
WHEEL EVEN MONEY

#### Solution to Puzzle No 17,448

BECAUSE OF SPAIN  
CULLER  
CHAROLAIS  
LW  
NUMERALS  
TALK  
PROSELYTIZE  
ROPE TILLNATURE

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: S. Corrin, 10 Russell Gardens, London NW11; H. Taylor, 6 Roman Road, Faversham, Kent; W. Rodgers, 23 Linden Close, Barnstaple, Devon; G. Callow, 52 Almond Ave, Risca, Gwent; P. A. C. Hall, 1 Upper Le Court, Chapelton, Sheffield.

Name.....  
Address.....

### WEATHER

The south-east will start mostly dry. Cloud, rain and strong winds will affect most of England and Wales at first. Over Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, it will be a day of showers and sunny periods. Winds will reach gale force at times in exposed places. Outlook: showers and sunny periods in the north. Elsewhere, rain will spread from the west on Sunday, clearing on Monday.

#### ABROAD

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; lg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sh, shower; t, thunder.

	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20	Madrid	26-29	SE 10-15
Alexandria	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20	Moscow	27-31	SE 10-15
Athens	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20	Nairobi	27-31	SE 10-15
Bombay	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20	Paris	27-31	SE 10-15
Buenos Aires	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20	Rome	27-31	SE 10-15
Calcutta	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20	Sydney	27-31	SE 10-15
Cairo	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20	Tokyo	27-31	SE 10-15
Cape Town	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20	Washington	27-31	SE 10-15
Colombo	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20	Wellington	27-31	SE 10-15
Copenhagen	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Dublin	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Geneva	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Hong Kong	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
London	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Lyons	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Manila	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Medan	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Mumbai	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Nairobi	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Perth	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Rangoon	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Seoul	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Singapore	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Sourabaya	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Taipei	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Tientsin	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			
Yokohama	27-31	SE 10-15	10-20			

#### AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun	Rain	in	Max	
				C	F
Scarboro	3.73			21	70 cloudy
Baltimore	3.6			21	70 cloudy
Crowder	5.2		01	24	75 sunny
Loverscroft	4.1			70	sunny
London	7.1			23	73 sunny
Southend	5.6			23	73 sunny
St. John's	7.1			17	63 sunny
Pollackton	3.9			20	72 sunny
Hastings	2.6			21	70 cloudy
Eastman	3.9			21	69 bright
Brighton	1.9			20	68 cloudy
Worthing	1.4			20	68 cloudy
Leamington	3.9			21	69 bright
Bognor R.	2.2			20	68 cloudy
Southsea	4.4			21	70 sunny
Salisbury	2.6			21	70 sunny
Bournemouth	2.3		03	20	68 shower
Swansea	2.3			19	66 bright
Weymouth	2.1			19	66 bright
Wigan	7.1			20	69 sunny
Telgoumouth	4.3			22	72 sunny
Torquay	4.4			22	72 sunny
Truro	7.4		07	21	70 sunny
Penzance	9.4		08	20	68 sunny
St. Ives	5.6			20	68 sunny
Gosport	4.5			22	72 cloudy
Airacomb	4.5		10	20	68 sunny
Milnhead	7.3			23	72 sunny
Morcombe	4.4			23	72 sunny
Carlisle	5.1			21	70 rain
Northampton	3.3			02	20 68 rain
Nottingham	5.1			18	64 sunny
Colwyn Bay	5.7			20	68 sunny
Tenby	5.4		11	18	63 sunny
St. David's	5.2			18	63 sunny
Exhoketown	7.2		07	17	63 sunny
St. David's	4.7			13	55 dull
Lewend	3.7			13	55 dull



Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1782.1 (+7.6)  
FT-SE 100  
2274.9 (+6.8)Bargains  
34432 (33613)USM (Datastream)  
209.85 (-0.08)

## THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6530 (-0.0045)W-German mark  
2.9680 (-0.0022)Trade-weighted  
73.0 (-0.1)Sedgwick  
profits  
fall £11m

By Allan Eadie

Sedgwick Group, Britain's largest quoted insurance broker, yesterday reported a fall in interim pretax profits to £81 million from £92.6 million, on revenues 8.4 per cent higher at £357.7 million.

The profits decline was almost entirely due to a rapid fall in US property insurance rates. Sedgwick had not anticipated the speed and severity of the fall.

Sedgwick has been expanding rapidly in the US, largely through the acquisition of Fred S James in 1985 and Crump Companies last year, when the insurance cycle was on an upswing. There are worries in the stock market that Sedgwick paid too much in the light of the sudden downturn.

Earnings per share, after the increase in shares issued to finance the US purchases, fell 20.5 per cent. The dividend was maintained at 4p.

Mr Carol Mossesman, the chairman, said that despite the difficulties, the board remained convinced of the strategy of establishing Sedgwick as the only European international broker with a big presence in the US was correct.

Temps, page 25

## De Brett drop

Pretax profits of Andre De Brett, the direct mail order business specializing in outsize clothing, sank from £168,000 to £55,000 last year. There is no final dividend.

## SUMMARY

## STOCK MARKETS

New York	2579.40 (-28.09)
Dow Jones	2579.40 (-28.09)
Tokyo	2574.03 (+94.15)
Nikkei Dow	2574.03 (+94.15)
Hong Kong	3864.48 (+0.53)
Hang Seng	3864.48 (+0.53)
Sydney	2195.8 (-1.7)
Frankfurt	1981.2 (-38.8)
Commerzbank	1981.2 (-38.8)
Frankfurt	1981.2 (-38.8)
Paris	5295.7 (-2.8)
Paris CAC	5295.7 (-2.8)
Zurich	604.4 (+0.5)
Zurich SKA	604.4 (+0.5)
London	1782.1 (+7.6)
FT-30 Share	1782.1 (+7.6)
FT-100	2274.9 (+6.8)
FT Gold Mines	451.2 (-1.8)
FT Fixed Interest	92.72 (-0.19)
FT Govt Sec	92.72 (-0.19)

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISE:	
Appledore Group	3730 (+489)
Taylor Woodrow	4370 (+229)
Devises & Met. A	1180 (+180)
Bass	9550 (+180)
Tyne Tees TV A	9550 (+180)
Bartlett Group	5210 (+180)
GUS A	12800 (+180)
R Smallshaw	1850 (+450)
Macarthy	3850 (+180)
Centex Bros	3850 (+180)
Read Executive	1000 (+230)
Midland Bank	5000 (+200)
3-way L & L	3840 (+340)
Britannic	11500 (+300)
Rumus Holdings	2770 (+450)
Pearson	7820 (+140)
Rex Williams	1150 (+150)

## FALLS

TI Group	4130 (-200)
Wm Collins A	7250 (-130)
Sedgwick Group	2292 (-120)

## INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	10%
3-month Interbank 10% 10% 10%	
3-month eligible bills 9% 9% 9%	
buying rate	
US Prime Rate 8%	
Federal Funds 6 1/8% 6 1/8% 6 1/8%	
3-month Treasury 5 3/8% 5 3/8% 5 3/8%	
30-year bonds 9 1/4% 9 1/4% 9 1/4%	

## CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.6530	\$ £0.6048
DM 2.9680	DM £0.3368
SwFr 2.2035	SwFr £0.4537
FFr 6.5535	FFr £0.1527
Yen 234.23	Yen £0.0043
Index 73.0	Index 100.0
ECU 0.897439	SDR 0.786679

## GOLD

London	New York
AM 446.40 pm 446.40	AM 446.40 pm 446.40
close 446.40 446.40 446.40	close 446.40 446.40 446.40
282.25	282.25
New York	New York
Comex 446.20 446.20	Comex 446.20 446.20

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) pm \$18.30/bbl (\$18.33)	Brent (Oct) pm \$18.30/bbl (\$18.33)
* Denotes latest trading price	* Denotes latest trading price
Stock Market 24	Commodities 24
Wall Street 24	Unit Tracts 24
Money Market 24	Commodities 24
Foreign Exchange 24	Commodities 24
Traded Options 24	Share Prices 24
Alpha Stocks 24	Share Prices 24

## Group pays £645m to become one of world's largest hotel operators

Ladbroke in  
Hilton coup

By Cliff Feldham

In the face of fierce international competition, the Ladbroke Group took one of the richest prizes in the hotel business yesterday when it announced the £645 million takeover of the luxury Hilton hotel chain.

The deal gives Ladbroke 92 Hilton hotels, including the London Hilton in Park Lane, and makes it one of the largest operators in the world.

"To have secured Hilton at a reasonable price is a great coup for Ladbroke," said Mr Cyril Stein, the chairman, after announcing the company's biggest-ever deal.

There was an enthusiastic response in the City, even though shareholders will be asked to put up some of the cash, as analysts saw the acquisition as transforming the group's prospects. Many of Ladbroke's hotels will be re-launched under the Hilton banner, which is expected to have a big impact on their profitability.

Ladbroke is buying Hilton International from its US owners, the Allegis Corporation, which plans to concentrate on its main business, United Airlines.

The auction attracted the interest of more than 30 potential bidders, including

leading international airlines. Ladbroke believes its offer succeeded because it was able to tie up a deal more quickly and did not require the regulatory permission needed by some of the airlines.

Hilton owns and operates 92 hotels — just under half are run under management contracts — with more than 35,000 bedrooms in 44 countries. Twenty-seven of the hotels are in Europe, 26 in North and South America, and 39 in the Far East, Australia and other parts of the world. A number of new hotels are being built at present.

Profits at Hilton International — which separated from the late Mr Conrad Hilton's Hilton Hotels Corporation in 1964 — have been unsteady over the past few years.

They fell from \$60 million (£36 million) in 1985 to \$47.6 million last year as the group suffered from the decline in US tourists visiting Europe. But profits have risen sharply this year.

The deal will give Ladbroke 50,000 hotel bedrooms worldwide. In Britain, it will run a close second in room numbers to Trusthouse Forte.

It will also give Ladbroke

access to the Hilton international room reservation system, which will boost bookings at the British group's hotels here and in Europe.

Mr John Jarvis, the Ladbroke director who will head the Hilton operation, said: "In the hotel business you need a strong brand name and they don't come any better than Hilton. We are thinking of retaining about 10 of our leading hotels, including those in Copenhagen, Bristol and Edinburgh with the Hilton name."

"We are also going to form a new Hilton Inns chain, which will be four-star commercial hotels out of city centres."

Ladbroke is asking its shareholders to put up £254 million towards the purchase price by launching a rights issue at 37 1/2p a share.

The City reacted warmly to the takeover. Mr Ron Littleboy of Nomura said: "The deal sounds a bit of a steal. From next year Ladbroke will be earning 40 per cent of its profits from hotels. There is a lot of potential locked up in the Hilton business."

Ladbroke's next move could be to invite offers for some of its non-core businesses

## The man behind the deal

Ladbroke's takeover of the Hilton hotel chain was not only a coup for the company, but a crowning achievement for Mr Cyril Stein, the chairman. A few years ago his career as head of the company looked to be at an end.

Ladbroke was forced to shut down its profitable London casinos after being ruled unfit to run them after a big scandal and allegations of a James Bond-style operation aimed at luring clients away from rival casinos.

The company's shares crashed and there was speculation that a takeover bid might be made to salvage Ladbroke's fortunes. For a time, Mr Stein's position as head of the company looked in doubt.

But Mr Stein, who joined the company 20 years ago when a family consortium acquired control, bounced back to make Ladbroke a formidable force in hotels, betting and do-it-yourself.

He has also created a significant

property business in the United States. Last year, he entered negotiations with Granada, which might have created a £1 billion leisure conglomerate, but the two sides failed to agree.

But in an eventful year he went on to acquire the Texas DIY chain for £204 million, sold his chain of bingo clubs to the Rank Organisation for £67 million, and disposed of his Las Vegas high street 45-operation for £35 million.

## The empire he has bought

A total of 92 Hilton hotels are operating in the following places:

Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (2); Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Adelaide, Australia; Al Ain, United Arab Emirates; Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2); Athens, Greece; Bahrain; Bangkok, Thailand; Barbados; West Indies; Barquisimeto, Venezuela; Basel, Switzerland; Belem, Brazil; Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Bogota, Colombia; Brisbane, Australia; Brussels, Belgium; Budapest, Hungary; Cairo, Egypt (2); Caracas, Venezuela (2); Cartagena, Colombia; Chicago, United States; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Corfu, Greece; Dubai, United Arab Emirates (2); Düsseldorf, Germany; two floating hotels in Egypt; Fijianah,

United Arab Emirates; Geneva, Switzerland; Guam, US; Hong Kong; Honolulu, Hawaii; Istanbul, Turkey; Jakarta, Indonesia; Jerusalem, Israel; Kenya (2 lodges); Khartoum, Sudan; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Kuwait; Lahore, Pakistan; London, England (5); Madagascar; Mainz, West Germany; Manila, Philippines; Mayaguez, Puerto Rico; Melbourne, Australia; Milan, Italy; Minneapolis, US; Montreal, Canada (2); Munich, West Germany; Nairobi, Kenya; New York, US; Nicosia, Cyprus; Osaka, Japan; Paris, France (2); Perth, Australia; Petaling Jaya, Malaysia; Pittsburgh, US; Quebec, Canada; Rome, Italy; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Saint John, Canada; San Juan, Puerto Rico; São Paulo, Brazil (2); Seoul, South Korea; Singapore; Strasbourg,

France; Sydney, Australia (2); Taipei, Taiwan; Tel Aviv, Israel; Tokyo, Japan; Toronto, Canada (2); Trinidad, West Indies; Tunis, Tunisia; Vienna, Austria; Washington DC, US; Windsor, Canada; Zurich, Switzerland.

The 14 hotels under construction are:

Ankara, Turkey; Cairns, Australia; Cali, Colombia; Jakarta, Indonesia; Kuching, Malaysia; Luxor, Egypt; Munich, West Germany; Nagoya, Japan; Newark, US; Ojai, US; Tokyo, Japan; Shanghai, China; Vienna, Austria; Yaounde, Cameroon.

The three hotels being developed are:

Peking, China; Cancun, Mexico; Waltham, US.

## Optimism at lacklustre Bestwood

By Our City Staff

Bestwood, the property, financial services and industrial conglomerate, run by Mr Tony Cole, the former stock broker, yesterday announced a lacklustre performance in the first half of the current year.

Profits advanced modestly from £947,000 last time to £968,000, while earnings per share contracted sharply from 3.7p to 2.6p.

Mr Cole conceded the results might appear disappointing. He said, however, that the underlying trend of the business

was encouraging.

At the trading level, the biggest shortfall was in the industrial division, where profits fell from £635,000 to £525,000. Central overheads also rose sharply from £401,000 to £606,000 and the interest bill was £297,000 against only £63,000 last year.

Bestwood also announced the details of its purchase of the Furlong group of companies, which is involved in residential property develop-

ment and road surfacing. The vendors have warranted profits of £2 million in the current year, £3 million next year and £3.75 million in 1989. The purchase price of £15.4 million will be reduced if the warranted profits are not achieved.

The Furlong acquisition, plus the drilling contract awarded by BP at Wytch Farm in Dorset, further strengthened the company's base for future profitability, said Mr Cole.



Bouncing back with leisure group's biggest-ever deal despite fierce competition: Cyril Stein

## Fed raises discount rate

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Federal Reserve yesterday raised its key discount rate from 5.5 per cent to 6 per cent.

A brief announcement said: "The decision reflects the intent of the Federal Reserve to deal effectively and in a timely way with potential inflationary pressures."

The last increase in the discount rate came on April 9, 1984, when it moved from 8.5 per cent to 9 per cent. Since then the rate has been cut seven times, with the last reduction on August 20 last year when it dropped from 6 per cent to 5.5 per cent.

Two major banks, Chase Manhattan and Chemical of New York, raised their prime

lending rate yesterday to 8.75 per cent from 8.25 per cent with immediate effect. Their move came within minutes of the Federal Reserve's announcement that it was raising its discount rate, the rate it charges on loans to banks.

The move was expected to spark rate rises by other large money-centre banks.

Financial observers said the rise in the key interest rate could slow the growth rate of the US economy, which is in its fifth year of expansion.

It marked the first major Fed action since Dr Alan Greenspan became chairman last month.

The increase is likely to have a major impact on the

nervous US stock and bond markets, which have been declining because of higher interest rate pressures.

The Fed's move should allay any doubts among some financial analysts about the commitment of the new Fed chairman to maintain a strong stand against inflation.

The timing of yesterday's action was unusual, suggesting that the US central bank wanted to influence the financial markets.

Both the dollar and bond prices eased after the announcement, leaving the dollar little changed on the day in Europe. Against the pound it gained 0.3 cents from the previous close at \$1.6545.

Comment, page 25

BCI looks  
out for  
takeovers

By Alexandra Jackson

A sharply improved balance sheet has put Blue Circle Industries on the lookout for acquisitions in the British building materials sector.

Mr David Poole, group chief executive, said yesterday after publication of BCI's interim figures: "We are actively looking to broaden the base of our domestic building materials operations."

City commentators are speculating on possible bid targets. Bestock Johnson, the brick manufacturer, Meyer International, the joinery company, and concrete products manufacturer Marshall's Halifax are most mentioned.

A ready-mixed concrete price war in Atlanta, Georgia, knocked £8.8 million off profits to end-June, but overall group pretax profits rose 39 per cent to £59.7 million.

Operating profits rose from £64.7 million to £69.9 million, helped by a £3.1 million pension fund holiday. Interest payments fell 42 per cent to £10.2 million and net borrowings dropped £215 million to £179 million.

The interim dividend of 5p is 67 per cent higher than last year's.

As Britain's largest cement manufacturer, Blue Circle's has been closely watched since the end of the industry's price agreement. The new structure was not in place in the first half, but savings pushed operating profits up from £6.1 million to £16.5 million.

Temps, page 25

Go-ahead for £60m  
shops complex

By Robert Rodwell

Ulster's Department of the Environment has given the go-ahead for the biggest-ever commercial property development in the centre of Belfast.

It is the £60 million, seven-acre Castle Court shops and offices complex on Royal Avenue to be built by the development side of the John Laing construction group.

Foundation work is expected to begin within three weeks for completion in spring 1990. Mr Nick Sadler, Laing's project manager, said Castle Court will comprise a large department store, 80 other shop units, offices and multi-storey parking for 2,000 cars. It will also bring about 2,000 jobs.

The project was delayed for some months after an objection from Mr Tom King, the Northern Ireland Secretary.

He is understood to have disliked the first frontage designed and to have told the developers to think again. It was changed by the architects, Building Design Partnership, and the developers before being relaunched.

Belfast traders believe Sears Holdings will lease the department store. But Mr Sadler, said such speculation was premature, although Laing expects to be making firm announcements about tenants within eight weeks.

Brierley in  
£367m bid  
for Equity  
& Law

By Colin Campbell

Mr Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, made his long-expected full takeover bid for Equity & Law yesterday, offering 365p cash a share, which valued the life insurer at £367 million.

Equity & Law responded within hours, saying it would strongly resist the advance and that the 365p offer could not be taken seriously.

Its share price jumped 37p to 387p, having earlier touched 389p, on realisation that the group is now "in play" and in the belief that other bidders may step forward.

Brierley Investments, which came to the London Stock Exchange last December and is the second-largest quoted company in New Zealand with a market capitalization of nearly £2 billion, acquired an interest in Equity & Law 18 months ago, and now owns 29.6 per cent. It built its stake at an average price of 330p.

Mr Brierley approached Equity & Law's board for an agreed offer. "Their reaction was quite the opposite, and therefore it is likely to be a hostile battle," he said yesterday. "Our offer is not wondrously cheap. It's a full price."

Mr Brierley said he would not be daunted if there was a higher bid, but added: "My preferred course is to win — but on sensible terms."

If the bid succeeds, Equity & Law will operate as a separate business within the Brierley Investment group.

Equity & Law said it would prefer to remain independent and would resist the offer on the grounds that the price was inadequate, its own dividend and investment record was solid and that the offer was not in the interest of either shareholders or policyholders.

IBC in £98m  
agreed bid  
for Barham

By Michael Tate

Mr Michael Bell's ambitious publishing group, International Business Communications, plans to more than triple its size through an agreed £98.1 million takeover bid for Barham Group.

A successful merger would create a £150 million business information group leader.

Terms of the offer are 19 IBC shares and 985p in cash for every 18 Barham share, and value each Barham at 268p, a premium of 25 per cent to the market price, although holders may take a straight 250p in cash. The share capital will thus be increased by more than two-and-a-half times.

Temps, page 25

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# Guinness sells Drummond arm to Macarthy for £42m

By Lawrence Lever

Guinness completed another stage of its retail disposal programme yesterday with the sale of its Drummond Pharmacy Group to Macarthy, the healthcare group, for £42.6 million cash.

Macarthy is funding the purchase via a one-for-one rights issue at 400p. The deal increases its size by two-thirds, promoting it to the ranks of companies capitalised at more than £100 million.

The stock market reacted with enthusiasm. Guinness shares rose 10p to 365p, while the top-ranked breweries and distillers team at Wood Mackenzie, the stockbrokers, said Guinness had received "an excellent price."

Macarthy's shares leapt 28p to 538p as the market digested the most significant step in the revitalization of its fortunes since a group of institutional orchestrated a management buy-in at Macarthy last year, installing Mr Nicholas Ward as chairman.

Drummond is familiar territory to Mr Ward. He was a



Anthony Tennant: decision on rest of Martin soon

main-board director at Guinness in charge of the Martin retail division, which included Drummond, until joining Macarthy at the beginning of last year.

Drummond made pretax profits of more than £3 million in the 15 months to December 31, 1986, and has net assets of £21.1 million. Guinness is securing an exit

price/earnings ratio of about 27 for the sale.

The decision to dispose of the retail side followed the arrival of Mr Anthony Tennant as chief executive of Guinness in February. In the past three months it has sold its Clares Equipment business for £28 million and its 7-Eleven convenience stores chain for an undisclosed sum.

The biggest jewel in the Guinness retail crown is, however, the Martins Retail Group, which encompasses a 1,100-shop CTN chain, and is expected to fetch about £250 million.

Sources suggested yesterday that an announcement would be made within a week, with the prime contenders for the purchase being the Martins management; Mr Arundhati Patel, who owns the Finlays newspapers chain; and the Swiss Schmidheiny family, owners of newspapers in Switzerland.

Drummond has a wholesale side, focusing mainly on pharmaceutical products, and 114 retail pharmacy outlets,

of which 111 operate under the R Gordon Drummond name in Scotland and the South-west of England.

Mr Ward said he was "enormously enthusiastic" about the deal. It would increase the company's size substantially, particularly on the retail side where it would become the second-largest pharmaceutical retailer in Britain. He added that there would be no overlap with Macarthy's Savory & Moore, 63-strong retail pharmaceutical chain.

Mr Ward said the Drummond purchase extended the group's geographical coverage in Britain and provided a better business balance by strengthening Macarthy's retail side.

Macarthy intends to integrate the Drummond wholesale business into its manufacturing and distribution divisions.

Macarthy's one-for-one rights issue will raise £51.5 million, of which £8.8 million will be used to reduce borrowings and the balance for the Drummond purchase.

## £8m float for farms venture

By Michael Tate

Mr David Piment plans to bring his Californian farming venture, Anglo American Agriculture, to the London market before the end of the year, with a price tag of about £8 million.

AAA, founded when Mr Piment injected his interests into the de-listed Scottish Ceylon Tea shell company in 1983, owns and runs grape, date and peach farms in California.

The jewel in the crown, however, is a 38 per cent stake in Deane-Western, which offers comprehensive services to the farm and ranch industry. It combines the more familiar roles of an estate agent with mortgage broking and servicing.

AAA already has an impressive shareholder list, including Scottish American Investment, Throgmorton Trust, Save & Prosper, M&G, Christian Salvendy and James Finlay.

They will collect an increased dividend of 1.75p a share for 1986. AAA said yesterday profits were up 99 per cent to £278,000.

## Sir Gordon's blight

News that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission does not intend to publish an interim report on its two-year investigation into our brewing industry has fallen like a wet blanket on those in the business and others who follow its fortunes in the City. For the Beerage, it means another year of suspense, even anxiety, and though no-one is as yet admitting so, the probable deferment of sensible capital investment projects. It is, if you like, a case of brewers' droop brought on by Borrie's blight.

When he initiated the investigation, Sir Gordon Borrie, and his senior colleagues at the Office of Fair Trading, appeared to be concerned about two sets of problems, one somewhat academic, the other highly political. The first relates to the time-honoured tied estate system under which the brewers own directly large numbers of their outlets and, as in any vertically integrated company, prefer to sell their own products rather than those of others. This could be said to make it difficult for independent producers to gain a foothold in many of the main distribution chains, though companies such as Guinness and Scottish & Newcastle have shown that it is far from impossible. The political issue boils down to its last analysis to the contention that beer prices may be too high given the margins on which the most efficient of our brewers operate these days.

The investigation has hovered like a Damoclean threat over the brewery sector which has underperformed the market substantially in the past 12 months. Now, though prospects for earnings growth in the major companies remains excellent, their shares trade at a heavy discount to the market. For investors prepared to part company with the herd, this could provide an attractive opportunity to buy the sector. If the MMC recommends little or no change when it reports next year, the major brewers look cheap; if large-scale change is forced on the industry, the major companies look well placed to take advantage of it. It is not possible to foresee with complete accuracy what changes may be suggested by the MMC, but many of the likely ones could lead eventually to further concentration not less.

The commission could require a process of polarization to take place by which brewers must become manufacturers or retailers. This would lead to the sale of much brewing capacity to the many overseas companies which are already nibbling away at the British market. Most of the larger companies would opt to be higher-margin, property-owning retailers rather than manufacturers and hauliers. This option would hit the regional brewer hard, since he would lack the marketing resources to compete with nationally-promoted brands and would almost certainly lose market share.

The most complex option and in the short run the most damaging from the brewers' standpoint would be to force each pub to become a free house. That would be a recipe for a price war in which the victors would certainly be those with the deepest pockets. The losers once again would be the regional brewers who could stand neither the marketing costs nor the instant attrition of their profit margins. The way would be paved for increased domination of the pub trade by those whose powers Sir Gordon now seeks to limit. If Whitehall or the MMC back away from such a prospect, then brewing shares are certainly cheap today.

### Too little, too late

Yesterday's increase in US interest rates looks like one of those rare occasions when action by the Federal Reserve has few immediate implications for interest rates in other countries. Admittedly gifts fell on the calculation that US bonds might now be rather less unattractive than they have been recently in comparison with British paper. But a rise in British interest rates is not brought perceptibly closer by the US move.

The reason for the 0.5 per cent increase from 5½ per cent to 6 per cent in the Fed discount rate, which was quickly followed by increases in prime rates from 8¼ per cent to 8½ per cent, is the recent pressure on the dollar and US bond markets after July's dreadful trade figures. Currency depreciation is potentially inflationary and consumer prices have been rising relatively fast this year at an annual rate of 5.4 per cent in the first six months, compared with only 1.1 per cent in the same period last year when oil and commodity prices were falling. With half the rest of the world suffering from over-cooling rather than over-heating, the Fed's action can be regarded as mainly a domestic American affair.

Whether it will have much impact in stabilizing the dollar and restoring confidence in the US economy seems doubtful at this stage. The initial reaction in markets was to drop the dollar 0.9 pence to about DM1.7910 and by the end of the afternoon the rate, in London was still 0.5 pence below the rate just before the announcement.

The new Fed chairman Dr Alan Greenspan has acted just in time to preserve the hope that he will be a worthy successor to Mr Paul Volcker. Nevertheless, the ½ per cent move may well be, as Stephen Lewis of Phillips & Drew put it, "too little, too late". It is now three weeks since the last US trade figures — the next set is due at the end of next week — and in that time the yen has risen 6.4 per cent against the dollar, the mark 4.9 per cent and even sterling is 4.4 per cent stronger. Unless the trade figures are substantially better than those of the past two months, ½ per cent may not be enough.

## Diamond prices to rise 10%

By Colin Campbell

The price of rough gem diamonds is being increased by an overall 10 per cent from October 5, the Central Selling Organisation, the marketing arm of the De Beers group, announced yesterday.

The price increase was not unexpected in view of the recent strength in demand for stones, and follows continued — and growing — interest in a number of world markets.

Japan, in particular, has been a heavy buyer. Imports of polished diamonds in the January-July period of this year have increased by 60 per cent in dollar terms, and by 34 per cent in yen terms.

The overall 10 per cent price increase will be weighted towards the larger stones, for which an increasing demand is being seen.

Board and drilling diamonds marketed by the CSO are not affected by the latest price increase.

De Beers last raised its gem prices in November by an average 7 per cent after a 7.5 per cent increase in April last year.

De Beers' share price eased 10p to 929p.

## Bond makes \$1.2bn offer for US brewer Heileman

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Mr Alan Bond, the Australian businessman, yesterday made a \$US1.2 billion (\$727.2 million) bid for the United States' Heileman Brewing Company Inc. If the offer is accepted, he will become the fourth-biggest brewer in the world.

Amber Acquisitions Corp, a subsidiary of Bond Corp Holdings, is offering US\$38 a share for Heileman, whose brand names include Lone Star and Colt 45. It is conditional on 75 per cent acceptance.

The bid fosters Mr Bond's ambitions to form a global brewing giant, through Bond Brewing Holdings, and gain an edge over his arch-rival, Mr John Elliott, the Elders DLI chief.

Both Mr Bond (Swan Lager, Castlemaine XXXX) and Mr Elliott (Foster's, Courage) are seeking a bigger market share in the US and Britain. Mr Bond is also trying to gain a significant stake in Asia's biggest brewer, the Manila-based San Miguel Brewing Corporation.

A Bond Corp spokesman said the bid would be funded by a bank facility of \$US700 million and \$US450 million from Solomon Brothers Holding Company Inc, a financial services group.

The bid comes 10 days after Mr Bond won control of the St Joe Gold Corporation of the US for \$A470 million (£307 million).

He already controls the Golden Mile, the rich Kalgoorlie vein in Western Australia. Forecast production for the Bond group this year is 600,000 ounces of gold.

Mr Bond, who became an Australian hero when his syndicate won the America's Cup, has written to Mr Russell Cleary, Heileman's chairman, asking that the US brewing group "join in creating a partnership with Bond that will be a major brewing force in the world."

He said: "Together, Bond Brewing and Heileman would be the fourth-largest brewer, enabling it to exploit markets beyond either of our reaches."

## Olives rejects Melton Medes deal

By Our City Staff

The beleaguered board of Olives Paper Mill has rejected capital injection proposals from Melton Medes, its largest shareholder, even though they are more generous than proposals from Mr Michael Kent, the property developer, which it is recommending.

Melton's chairman, Mr Nathi Puri, said yesterday he

would attend next Friday's extraordinary meeting to block the Kent proposals.

Melton owns 19 per cent of Olives and Mr Puri said shareholders owing about 11 per cent had promised to support him in the absence of a higher offer from Mr Kent.

Mr Aubrey Heyer, chairman of Olives, said the board

believed the long-term interests of shareholders, the company, and its employees were best served by Mr Kent's proposals.

Melton proposes to inject £5 million, paying £1 each for 5 million new Olives shares. The Kent plan would involve issuing 4.4 million new Olives shares, for which the Kent camp would pay 85p each.

### TEMPUS

## Sedgwick takes a beating after US market goes into decline

Sedgwick Group's interim results prove just how bad the commercial market is becoming in the United States.

The stock market had expected flat figures but was not prepared for the 12.5 per cent fall in pretax profits, made on revenues 8.4 per cent higher. The shares slumped 15p to 289p.

US profits fell to £16.7 million from £28.6 million as property rates nosedived. Rating declines on medium-sized property accounts, in which subsidiary Fred S James specializes, were anything from 10 to 25 per cent. On the larger accounts rates fell 25 to 30 per cent and on occasion up to 50 per cent.

Assuming that the string of US acquisitions made in the second half of last year had been made in the first, the profits decline would have been an even heftier £22.2 million.

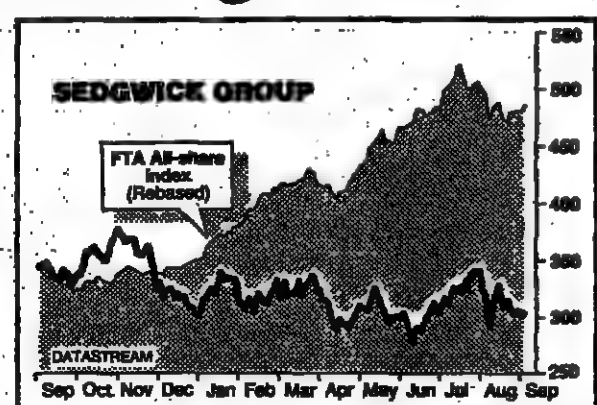
In Britain, continued recession in the oil and gas industries and the shortage of marine business pushed profits down to £49.5 million from £50.1 million.

Expenses were 17.5 per cent higher, reflecting the high price of buying new employees and holding on to existing ones. On the reinsurance side, Sedgwick was hit by an exodus of senior staff and business from Sullivan Payne in North America.

Sedgwick is putting a brave face on its results, maintaining that its buying spree in America was justified. It is the only European broker with a big presence in America.

It says that co-ordination between the US and Britain is encouraging the growth of new business and that action is being taken to reduce costs.

Analysts are busy downgrading their profits estimates to about £110 million in the full year, compared with £135.5 million. With an underlying rise (stripping out currency, acquisitions and disposals) in revenue of 2 per cent and expenses of 11 per cent, the immediate prospects are not rosy.



The yield of 5.7 per cent, assuming a maintained final dividend, and speculation that Transamerica will bid for Sedgwick when allowed to in two years' time, should support the shares from further falls.

Until evidence of new business and cost-cutting can be seen, the shares are unlikely to recover.

### IBC

Share-tipping newsletters and savings-advice publications have proliferated over the past few years, an inevitable result of the booming economy, the surging bull market and, primarily, the more relaxed personal savings market.

Michael Bell, at International Business Communications, has built a formidable reputation in the sector. He was in on the ground floor, having established IBC in 1978.

His agreed £98 million offer for Barham Group puts him in the big league. Barham is twice the size of IBC, but that is no reason why it should not respond to the Bell management technique.

Accountants Norman Fetherman and Tony Ward had put together a formidable communications, publishing and typesetting company at Barham, and made themselves personal fortunes in the process, but were unable to extract the kind of returns Bell has achieved at IBC.

Their failure to reach

One of the most exciting aspects of the deal is merging the mailing lists. Together they have half a million names and addresses. Another is the important extension Barham's market research, advertising, design and typesetting activities will bring to IBC.

The share and cash package values Barham at 268p, a 25 per cent premium over the market price. Both sides can be pleased with the deal.

### Blue Circle

A newly-vitalized board is the public face of the deep-reaching changes being implemented at Blue Circle. It is wrong still to think of BCI as one of the more conservative building materials companies.

BCI's disparate assets are being sharpened up to earn a proper return. Those not coming up to scratch are being sold.

The disposal of a handful of minority stakes, coupled with tighter financial control, has dramatically reduced gearing from 42 per cent at

the year end to 17 per cent.

The £7.5 million lower interest payment and lack of exceptional gains were the main factors pushing pretax profits ahead, but even the modest operating advance masked some interesting trends.

Domestic non-cement activities are now nearly as important as the traditional business.

Improved efficiency in home cement increased operating profit per tonne more than two and a half times on the back of 5 per cent higher volume.

There is scope to improve profitability further as the new pricing structure was not in effect until the beginning of August and modernized plants at Caudon, Staffordshire and Dunbar, East Lothian, are still not firing on all cylinders.

Armistage Shanks is also being scrutinized to see how its pedestrian performance can be improved.

The figures, however, had little joy for those comforted by BCI's recent preference for US rather than Third World assets, hoping this would reduce earnings volatility.

Interim pretax profits at Williams Brothers, the leader in the Atlanta ready-mixed concrete market, slumped from \$12 million (£7.2 million) to \$1.2 million, accounting for 88 per cent of the £10 million drop in US operating profits.

The price war which caused this carnage is subsiding, but profits will not pick up until next year.

Supported by a strong balance sheet, BCI wants to broaden its base at home. The desire not to upset cement customers narrows the hit list, but bricks, timber, plastics and, to a lesser extent, concrete products, are all attractive market segments.

On forecasts of £150 million the shares are selling well below the sector average. But more solid signs of the BCI of the future are needed to justify a full re-rating at this stage.



## Sedgwick Group

### HALF-YEAR RESULTS (unaudited)

	1987	1986	Full year 1986
Revenue	£357.7m	£330.0m	£640.4m
Profit before taxation	£81.0m	£92.6m	£135.5m
Earnings for the period	£52.8m	£57.5m	£84.4m
Earnings per ordinary share	12.4p	15.6p	21.9p
Dividend per ordinary share	4.0p	4.0p	12.0p

The information shown above for the year ended 31 December 1986 is extracted from the full financial statements for that year which received an unqualified report by the group's auditors and which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.



[illegible][illegible]This image shows a vertical strip of a document page. On the left side, there is a dark, vertical line. The rest of the strip is white with some faint, scattered black specks. At the bottom of the strip, there is a curved line that appears to be part of a larger shape or text.



*Portfolio*  
—Gold—

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24.)

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14	Salvador	256	215	-1	8.5	2.9	25.1
15	Seychelles	119	112	-7			7.7
16	Sierra Leone	45	45	+0			47.5
17	Tanzania	19	19	0			56.0
18	Togo	118	120	+2			52.0
19	Tunisia	230	237	+7			57.0
20	Upper Europe	229	237	+8			52.0
21	Uruguay (est)	278	285	+7	7.8	2.7	8.7
22	Windsor	37	37	0			

OVERSEAS TRADERS

77	Delaware	185	207	57	47	28.4	
78	Foreign (Lombard)	115	117	2	4.8		
226	Monaco	207	205	-2	25.4		
227	Monaco (Credit)	207	205	-2	25.4		
228	Paris	207	205	-2	25.4		
189	London	207	205	-2	25.4		
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	12/1	12/2	12/3	12/4	12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8
PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G								
256 Abbott Mead	242	365			48	14		218
257	184	247			0	18		202
286 Accent Paper	242	365			800			255
287 Acme Paper	242	365			0			255
188 AFP	261	265		5	18	25		263
189 APC	262	265			1	25		268
190 BPC	262	265			1	25		268
191 BPC (C)	262	265			1	25		268
192 BPC (C)	262	265			1	25		268
193 BPC (C)	262	265			1	25		268
194 BPC (C)	262	265			1	25		268
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371 BPC (C)	262	265			1	25		268
372 BPC (C)	262	265			1	25		268
373 BPC (C								

270	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
271	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
272	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
273	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
274	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
275	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
276	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
277	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
278	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
279	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
280	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
281	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
282	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
283	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
284	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
285	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
286	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
287	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
288	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
289	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
290	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
291	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
292	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
293	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
294	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
295	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
296	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
297	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
298	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
299	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
300	Perkins	250	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

[illegible][illegible]

430	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
431	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
432	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
433	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
434	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
435	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
436	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
437	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
438	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
439	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
440	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
441	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
442	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
443	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
444	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
445	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
446	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
447	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
448	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
449	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
450	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
451	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
452	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
453	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
454	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
455	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
456	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
457	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
458	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
459	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
460	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
461	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
462	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
463	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
464	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
465	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
466	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
467	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
468	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
469	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
470	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
471	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
472	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
473	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
474	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
475	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
476	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
477	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
478	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
479	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
480	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
481	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
482	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
483	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
484	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
485	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
486	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
487	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
488	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
489	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
490	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
491	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
492	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
493	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
494	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
495	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
496	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
497	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
498	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
499	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		
500	Rebecca	185	170	-15	2.3		

[illegible][illegible]

275	Footwear Sales	595	615	-2	59	14	23.1
<b>SHOES AND LEATHER</b>							
178	Garner Bands	300	320	●	13.7	44	27.1
179	Handmade Suits	100	140	▲ 40	7	0.5	
201	Lensons	305	395	-5	10.3	26	16.1
170	Payson	347	350	●	7.0	28	17.4
143	Strong & Fisher	304	358	-1	14.0	4.7	14.7
	State	300	335	●	6.3	21	
<b>TEXTILES</b>							
208	Alford Text	358	360	●-3	11.5	32	22.6
160	Baker Light	352	362	●-5	7.5	21	11.4

83	By Mather	215	218	-3	8.9	41	317
84	Coca	190	114	-7	5.5	4.8	219
85	Condoms (box)	472	474	+4	13.0	27	117
86	CoolAids	180	180	0	+3	6.6	129
87	CoverGirl	180	180	0	+1	2.2	129
88	Crackers	319	322	+3	9.5	30	161
89	Drum	215	220	+5	5.1	23	113
90	Drum	215	220	+5	5.2	23	113
91	Drum	215	220	+5	5.2	23	113
92	Drum	215	220	+5	5.2	23	113
93	Drum	215	220	+5	5.2	23	113
94	Drum	215	220	+5	5.2	23	113
95	Drum	215	220	+5	5.2	23	113
96	Drum	215	220	+5	5.2	23	113
97	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
98	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
99	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
100	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
101	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
102	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
103	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
104	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
105	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
106	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
107	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
108	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
109	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
110	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
111	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
112	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
113	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
114	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
115	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
116	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
117	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
118	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
119	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
120	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
121	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
122	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
123	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
124	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
125	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
126	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
127	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
128	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
129	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
130	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
131	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
132	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
133	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
134	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
135	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
136	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
137	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
138	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
139	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
140	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
141	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
142	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
143	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
144	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
145	Hickory	78	81	3	8.8	3.9	125
1							

	1978	1979	% chg	1978	1979	% chg
28	Sandoz	147	150	2	5.0	10.9
29	Schering	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
30	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
31	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
32	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
33	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
34	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
35	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
36	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
37	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
38	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
39	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
40	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
41	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
42	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
43	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
44	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
45	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
46	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
47	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
48	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
49	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
50	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
51	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
52	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
53	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
54	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
55	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
56	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
57	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
58	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
59	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
60	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
61	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
62	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
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84	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
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86	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
87	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
88	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
89	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
90	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
91	Schering Plc	150	160	6	2.8	16.1
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Edited by Peter Gartland

## FAMILY MONEY/1

## THIS WEEK

- Interest on current accounts ..... 1
- Record at Lloyd's ..... 1
- Unexpected cost of cash ..... 2
- Antiques as investments ..... 3
- UK unit trust losses ..... 3

## Lower minimum at the Midland

The Midland Bank has reduced the minimum cheque withdrawal from £200 to £100 on its High Interest Cheque Account. The minimum balance remains £2,000, on which interest of 6.6 per cent net is paid. Amounts of £10,000 and above earn 7 per cent net.

## Britannia Day

The Britannia, the 22-carat British gold bullion coin, will be officially launched on October 13, and will be available to the public the following day. It will be minted in four sizes, 1oz, 1/2oz, 1/4oz and 0.1 oz.

## £1,000 at 9.1%

The Town & Country Building Society guarantees to pay 4.1 per cent above the ordinary share rate on its one-year super term share, making 9.1 per cent at present. The minimum investment is £1,000. No withdrawals are allowed. Half-yearly and monthly interest options are available at a lower rate.

## A growing interest

It is now more than three months since the Nationwide Anglia, then just the Nationwide, placed the gauntlet firmly at the feet of the banks with the launch of its FlexAccount.

This was at around the time that the Midland Bank launched its yuppie-style Vector account. But apart from this somewhat specialized development, none of the major banks has retaliated by paying interest on established current accounts. However, National Westminster's domestic banking chief Roger Flemington cautiously admits that payment of interest on current accounts is a subject high on the agenda of many of his bank's customers.

No other building society has attempted to emulate FlexAccount. So does this mean that the Nationwide's pioneering move has been a failure?

Brian Whitfield, the general manager, says: "We've had a tremendous response so far - at the top of our expectations."

Although Mr Whitfield is not prepared to divulge any meaningful figures for the number of accounts that have been opened, he says about 30 per cent of FlexAccount holders were not existing customers. Of these, about 75 per cent already had bank accounts, and although some people continue to operate these, others have switched completely to the FlexAccount.

Mr Whitfield says a number of people started off by giving the FlexAccount a trial run, and subsequently closed their bank account when they found out how reliable it was.

On the volume of business,

Mr Whitfield says there have been no surprises, and the society has been able to cope easily. It will be advertising the account again in the autumn.

Why have others not followed Nationwide? Mr Whitfield says: "It's a hard act to follow and will probably have sent a lot of people back to the drawing board."

Abbey National has made no secret of its interest in money transmission. At present it is building a new clearing centre that will be ready next May, and it is looking closely at EFTPOS -

been taken by one small society. The Peckham teamed up yesterday with Western Trust & Savings to provide the Current Account Plus.

This account offers a £50 cheque guarantee card and a LINK cash card, which can be used to withdraw up to £250 a day from any LINK cash dispenser.

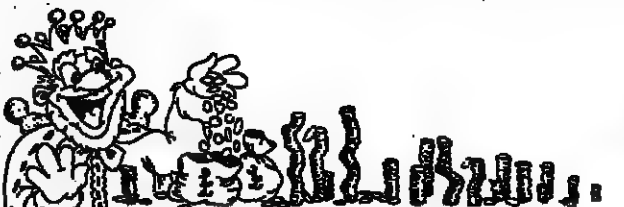
Account holders can write as many cheques as they like and there is no restriction on the number of standing orders or direct debits. Detailed statements are sent out monthly.

The Peckham makes no

Customers are required to repay a minimum of 5 per cent of the outstanding balance every month or £5, whichever is greater.

Initially, the Peckham is offering the account only to its existing customers, but intends to extend the service to non-members later in the year. However, Western Trust & Savings already markets its own Current Account Plus, which has the same terms and conditions and which is available throughout the country.

As it stands, the Peckham's Current Account Plus is no match for FlexAccount. How-



Money galore: The Peckham publicizes its new deal. Right: Roger Flemington, talking of interest at NatWest

Electronic Funds Transfer at the Point of Sale.

John Fry, corporate planning manager, says the Abbey is looking at the whole area of money transmission, and is examining its Cheque Save account with this in mind.

As for the Halifax, Jim Murgatroyd, assistant general manager, is keen to stress that the society still wants to avoid the expense involved in providing a high-volume cheque facility. "For the time being," he says, "we'd prefer to pursue our plastic base with Card Cash, but we are looking at the market very closely, and if we felt the competition was hotting up we could act fairly quickly."

However, the plunge has

charge for transactions, and there is no requirement to keep a minimum balance in the account to qualify. An account can be opened with £5. However, customers must agree to transfer their salary or at least £150 to the account every month.

Once the balance reaches £500, interest is paid ranging from 2.59 per cent net on sums of up to £999 to 6.02 per cent net on amounts of £10,000 and more.

Current Account Plus includes a £500 overdraft facility. Higher limits will be considered. The interest is calculated on a daily basis and charged monthly. The current rate is 1.75 per cent per month (APR 23.1).



Amanda Pardoe

You'd have to look a long way to find returns like these. And, though the past isn't necessarily a guide to the future, there's every sign that U.K. investments such as these will continue to grow fast.

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GRE Smaller Companies Trust	+58.0%*	+194.6%*

\*Other than with income reinvested (Planned Savings statistics).

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**UNIT TRUSTS**

## Profits with a warning

Lloyd's insurance market this week announced record profits of £279 million for the 1984 year of account - Lloyd's traditionally accounts three years in arrears.

More significant than the overall profit, which includes investment income, was the return to the black for underwriting for the first time since 1980. Underwriting showed a £138 million profit compared with a £115 million loss in 1983. The improvement is expected to gather pace leading to a better 1985 and a "vintage" 1986.

The reasons were another profitable year for marine business, a bumper year for aviation and diminishing losses on the plagued liability side. The results showed the effects of reduced capacity and higher rates following a prolonged spell of overcapacity and rate weakness.

Lloyd's names - those who pledge their wealth to underwrite insurance business - should receive a cheque for about £540 for a £10,000 share on a syndicate, according to

Chaset, a company analysing the syndicates' results.

The 5.4 per cent return is, however, an average figure that masks varying performances. The advice about choosing agents and syndicates with great care is just as relevant in times of profit as during the downswings. Given the mix of results - motor in loss, aviation highly profitable but expecting a nose-dive in 1985 because of the spate of airline crashes - the best advice continues to be to choose a spread of syndicates across the four market sectors.

A rough guide would be 45 per cent marine, 35 per cent non-marine, 10 per cent motor and 10 per cent aviation. The best pointer to which managing agent to join is to look at records by scouring Chaset's tables or those published by the Association of Lloyd's Members.

Past results are never the whole answer, owing to the huge cyclical swings in the insurance business. Chaset is warning that trouble is brewing in 1987 with marine

business turning down, commercial rates in the United States under pressure and capacity returning.

Those thinking of joining Lloyd's may be put off by Chaset's warning that "present names will be hoisting storm cones". The underwriters are too late to start underwriting at the beginning of 1988. The earliest opportunity is the start of 1989 and applications for that must be in by June 30 next year.

The wealth requirements are unchanged at £100,000 free capital, that is, excluding the value of the main residence. Those thinking of joining should learn as much as possible about the business and take expert tax advice.

Lloyd's publishes a booklet entitled *Membership: The Issues* listing the key aspects of membership and including a financial facts sheet. It also carries a warning that insurance is a risk business and membership exposes names to unlimited liability.

Alison Eadie

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Indeed, in 1986, Fidelity European Trust was the top performing unit trust in its sector.

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Moreover, these markets are still largely under-researched. As Europe's economies continue to develop, there is a vast wealth of investment potential as yet untapped.

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\*Offer to holder 1.1.87 to 1.1.88. \*\*Offer to holder 1.1.85 to 1.1.87. Source: Fidelity.

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## LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

Law Report September 5 1987

## Feminine touch for law

The sudden impact of women in the 1980s on another traditionally male profession is examined by Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent



Women are suddenly making dramatic inroads into the solicitors' branch of the legal profession. This week the Law Society published its annual statistics, and the impact of women on the profession was highlighted as one "major factor of change". Women sole practitioners had increased in number since 1983 by 52 per cent; the number of women partners rose by 50 per cent and women assistant solicitors by 34 per cent.

Women now account for almost half the law graduates (and achieve better class degrees). At the same time the number of women passing the solicitors' finals examinations last year exceeded the number of men for the first time and more women passed at the first attempt.

The arrival of women in force looks set to change the face of the profession radically within 10 to 15 years. Women still account for only 20 per cent of the profession: 12,273 of the total 63,177 solicitors on the roll in England and Wales in 1986-87. But that contrasts with the rise in entrants. In 1981 only 30 per cent of admissions to the profession were women; and in 1985 only 6 per cent. In 1986 the figure was just over 44 per cent — up from around 41 per cent in 1985.

There are other signs of change. Women are no longer consigned to the traditional areas of conveyancing and divorce. Tim Olsen, partner with the City firm Durrant Piesse, said: "Women here are concentrated in litigation and commercial work, where their ratio to men is one to 2.5, compared with 1 to 4.5 in conveyancing. They have moved into the very demanding fields of corporate finance, intellectual property and tax." Clients, he added, were also "by and large" now completely confident in women solicitors.

Women have at last got into the legal profession — at least the solicitors' branch of it — but their problems are not all solved. The latest figures also show striking differences in career patterns: men are achieving partnership at about twice the rate of women, and three times as many women remain as assistant solicitors 10 years after admission, compared with men on a pro rata basis.

There is also an alarmingly high drop-out rate. After the first year of admission to the roll, the number of women solicitors with practising certificates plummeted, with 36 per cent not holding a certificate after 10 years, compared with

12 per cent of men. Research is also showing that as many as 30 per cent of women with certificates are working part-time, or not at all.

Many women have found the only way to achieve partnership is to set up on their own. Linda Packard, 39, since last year a partner with Royds Barfield, the City firm, did just this. She and a solicitor friend worked from their homes in Guildford, Surrey, and Basingstoke, Hampshire, going out to see clients and "rushing up huge telephone bills." Her two children then were three years and six months. "We did everything except legal aid," she said. "And we developed quite a lot of shipping work."

Sarah Harman set up her own legal aid practice in Canterbury, Kent. Until recently it was an all-women firm; now it has one male articled clerk out of its total 12 staff. "We were always oriented to the welfare rights kind of work and more women seemed geared up to do that than men," explains Ms Harman, sister of the Labour MP for Peckham. Mostly her relations with other firms have been friendly, but when they started out, there was an attitude that women on their own were "a bit of a laugh".

As the practice has become successful, the women have attracted some snipes. There is still an old-fashioned view, she says, that women pose problems because they will want to go off and have children — plus a feeling that women will not be such big income-earners. "Women tend not to hobnob with the bank manager or the local estate agent over a drink. I've certainly never taken an estate agent to lunch or even bought one a cup of tea."

Amanda Royce, 39, a committee member of the Association of Women Solicitors, is one of the rapidly growing band of women sole practitioners. She runs a general practice, handling divorce and litigation, in East Sussex. "It works very well if you have small children; if they are sick, you can dash home and leave the secretary minding the telephone," she says.

So is the life of a woman solicitor more difficult, or different, from a man's? The Law Society set up a working party in

June to look at the issues thrown up by the growing band of women solicitors. Are there career obstacles? Can the career patterns of working mothers be integrated with professional practice? And what are the practical solutions?

There is some opposition to treating women and their careers as a "problem". Mrs Royce says: "At the risk of sounding smug, we do not feel in general there is a problem. We think it is wrong to have off women as a 'problem' area. In the way ethnic minorities are hived off. If women are good enough, they will succeed. Many women do not achieve partnership because they simply do not want them."

The working party appreciates this divergence in views. Mrs Packard, who chairs it, says: "This is a very subjective area. Some women say they have never experienced any problems or discrimination in their entire life; others have had an awful time. Experiences also vary to some extent according to size of firm. 'We are particularly appealing to women in small firms to let us know their problems. It is much easier for a larger firm to cope with providing different working arrangements for women than smaller ones.'"

Where there are problems, they seem to be over combining a career with children. "The single career woman who does not intend to have children is unlikely to encounter any difficulties, except perhaps at the interview when her intentions may be questioned," Mrs Packard says.

It may well be that the difficulties of trying to combine work and a family are one reason for the big drop-out. Mrs Packard suspects many women go into commerce, industry or local government, where the conditions of service are more attractive. The drop-out rate is worrying, she says, and the profession must tackle it if women are to be kept in private practice.

The working party intends to come up with practical solutions on such issues as part-time work, job-sharing and maternity leave, looked at from the firm's viewpoint as much as from the woman practitioner's. Another practical solution is the one-week refresher course run by the Association of Women Solicitors to help women back to work after they have had a gap. Eva Crawley, who helped to found the course 10 years ago, says: "Most people have been able to find part-time work or job sharing which they never thought of before, or working from home; and all agree the course is a great help to them."

There is still resistance, however, to having part-timers, particularly part-time partners. "This is really the nub of it," Mrs Packard says. But she has no truck with the objection that "part-time partners would be impossible". If women are to remain in the profession, she says, "private practitioners are going to have to change their attitudes".

*Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Patel*  
Before Lord Justice Dillon,  
Lord Justice Stephen Brown and  
Lord Justice Neill  
[Judgment August 7]

A person who had obtained leave to enter the United Kingdom by deception but had thereafter continued to reside in the country without further deception or doing anything else to warrant deportation could not be deported under section 3(5)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971 on the basis that the secretary of state deemed his deportation to be conducive to the public good.

It followed that no immigration officer had no power under rule 85 of the *Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules* (HC 169) to refuse such a person leave to re-enter the UK as a returning resident on the ground that his exclusion was conducive to the public good.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment (Lord Justice Dillon dissenting), dismissing an appeal by his Immigration Appeal Tribunal from Mr Justice Taylor who on December 4, 1986 had granted the applicant, Mr Anil Kumar Ravindrabhai Patel, judicial review by way of an order of certiorari to bring up and quash a decision of the tribunal, which had held that the chief immigration officer had rightly refused him re-entry to the UK.

Mr Nigel Fleming for the applicant; Mr Andrew Collins, for the respondent.

## Applying for extension of validity of writ

*Goldsworthy Nut Feed Co Ltd v Commodore (Produce) Ltd and Others*  
Before Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Bush  
[Judgment July 31]

An application for extension of the validity of a writ needed to show no more than a "good reason" why such an extension should be granted, except where, at the date of the application, the writ had already ceased to be valid and the relevant limitation period had expired. The fact that a defendant already knew of possible claims against him could be a relevant factor in deciding whether such a good reason had been shown.

Where, leave having previously been granted to serve the writ out of the jurisdiction, it had not at the date of such an application been served on a defendant out of the jurisdiction (and the limitation period had not expired), an important consideration in deciding whether such a good reason had been shown would be whether leave would then be granted to serve a fresh writ out of the jurisdiction.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff from Mr Justice Roper, who on October 31, 1986 had discharged a master's order extending the validity of the plaintiff's writ and had set aside service of

QC and Mr Vasant Kothari for the applicant.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON, dissenting, said that the tribunal had conceded that if there were no power to deport the applicant under section 3(5)(b) it would have been wrong to refuse him leave to re-enter under rule 85.

The judge had concluded, on the basis of a passage from the speech of Lord Bridge of Harwich in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Khawaja* (1984) AC 74, 117-8) with which the other members of the House had expressed general agreement, that the secretary of state had no power under section 3(5)(b) of the 1971 Act to deport a person who had obtained entry by deception but had not thereafter practised any deception in order to remain in the country.

The tribunal contended that that passage was obiter, as the Court of Appeal had held it to be in *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Owasu-Sekyer* (The Times April 20, 1987).

In his Lordship's judgment that passage formed part of the ratio in *Khawaja*, but he did not take Lord Bridge to have decided that the secretary of state could never under section 3(5)(b) deport a person whose only deception had been in connection with his status on original entry.

In *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Cheema*

(1982) Imm AR 124) and *Owasu-Sekyer* the Court of Appeal had decided that the section 3(5)(b) power could be exercised to deport a person who had obtained limited leave to enter honestly but had subsequently obtained unlimited leave to remain by deception.

His Lordship could see no satisfactory legal basis for the view advanced by the applicant that the section 3(5)(b) power could be exercised in the case of indefinite leave to remain obtained by post-entry deception but was not available where a person had obtained indefinite leave to enter by deception on his original entry.

If his Lordship was right in his analysis of Lord Bridge's words, or if they were obiter, it therefore followed from *Cheema* and *Owasu-Sekyer* that there was power to deport the applicant under section 3(5)(b) and there was no basis for interfering with the decision of the tribunal or the immigration officer. For his part his Lordship would therefore allow the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHEN BROWN said that although the Court of Appeal in *Owasu-Sekyer* had said that Lord Bridge's dictum was obiter, the majority had said that a distinction could be drawn between the position of a person whose entry was illegal and that of one whose deception at a later date had brought about an extension of his residential rights.

Whether Lord Bridge's words had been ratio or obiter they were to be heeded and given full effect, despite the apparent illogicality of the distinction which resulted. His Lordship would therefore hold that it had been wrong to refuse the applicant leave to re-enter, and dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that he was impressed by the argument that no satisfactory distinction could be drawn between cases of post-entry deception and deception which had procured leave to enter and that in view of the decisions in *Cheema* and *Owasu-Sekyer* the power to deport ought to arise in the applicant's case.

However, the court must also take account of what Lord Bridge had said in *Khawaja*. Whether that was part of the ratio decided or not it should be treated with great respect as authoritative guidance as to the scope of the section 3(5)(b) power. Read as a whole, it was clear that Lord Bridge was saying that a person who had obtained leave to enter by deception could not on that basis alone be deported under section 3(5)(b).

His Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Stephen Brown and the appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Stocken & Lambert.

it on the second defendant out of the jurisdiction.

Mr Sean Overend for the plaintiff; Mr Bernard Eder for the second defendant.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that, although the decision of the House of Lords in *Kleinworty Benson Ltd v Barbark Ltd (The Mito)* (No 3) (1987) 2 WLR 1053 was principally concerned with cases where questions of limitation arose on an application for the extension of the validity of a writ, the principle to be extracted from it was not to be confined to such cases, since the decision was founded on the proper construction of rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Although the limitation period might not have expired, the relevant considerations on which to decide whether leave to

serve a writ out of the jurisdiction should be granted might be very different when an application to extend the validity of the writ was made than they had been when leave to serve it out of the jurisdiction had first been granted.

If the probabilities were that in all the circumstances such leave would not be given in respect of a fresh writ at the date of the application to extend the validity of the original writ, that must militate against the granting of such an application where its purpose was to enable the original writ to be served out of the jurisdiction and thus to leave previously granted.

The basic rule remained "has a good reason been shown to extend the validity of the writ?", but the international aspects of any case were clearly material

in answering that question.

The headline in *Multinational Gas and Petrochemical Co v Multinational Gas and Petrochemical Services Ltd* (1983) Ch 258, 260 was inaccurate. Lord Justice Dillon had not there agreed with Lord Justice May that although the predominant reason for making a person a party to an action had been to bring an action in England against a foreign defendant, nevertheless the first person could be a "proper party" to the action. Lord Justice Dillon had in fact agreed with the contrary view expressed by Lord Justice Lawton, and that consequently had been the majority opinion of the court.

Mr Justice Bush agreed. Solicitors: Bunyard & Co; Highbury; Ingledew Brown Bennison & Garrett.

## No liability for destroying tree

*Groveside Homes Ltd v Elmbridge Borough Council*

The owner of land on which there was a tree the subject of a tree preservation order made by the local authority, was not guilty of an offence of destroying the tree, contrary to section 10(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, which had been carried out, contrary to the owner's strict instructions, by an

unknown employee of independent contractors who were carrying out developments on the land.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Mann) so held on July 10 when they quashed the conviction of the appellant company by the Essex and Walton Justices on November 14, 1986, and a £500 fine.

MR JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that although the offence under section 10(1) was one of strict or absolute liability, and a landowner could be held vicariously liable if the evidence had established that, since, in the instant case, the independent contractor had acted in breach of instructions to the contrary, the appellant company was not liable.

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